



KENT ON SUNDAY

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HIGH SPEED TRAIN LINE GOES ON SALE

Commuters facing threat of rail ticket price hikes

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

FEARS have been raised about higher train ticket prices and further disruption to commuters as the Government prepares to sell the controversial High Speed 1 line.

The network – which runs between London St Pancras and the Kent coast – is valued at between £1 billion and £1.5bn and is expected to be the first of the Con-Lib coalition's assets to be offloaded in an attempt to tackle the UK's £167bn annual debt burden.

However, the impending sell-off has sparked concerns that a new owner of the line might seek to cash in by charging train operators more for the use of the rail network, which would likely be passed onto passengers.

The news comes at a time when Kent commuters are still angry with the service received since a new timetable was introduced to coincide with the launch of HS1 late last year.

They claim that since the changes they have suffered an increase in overcrowding, delays and cancellations, and a reduction in the number of trains running.

North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale said: "If you're going to buy an asset like HS1 then you're not going to do it for fun.

"You're going to want to make money from it, so in all likelihood it will lead to increased charges for the train companies using the line.

"It would be an absolute outrage if this led to even higher ticket prices.

"My travelling public are already up in arms about the poor quality of service they are receiving, so anything that pushes prices up

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



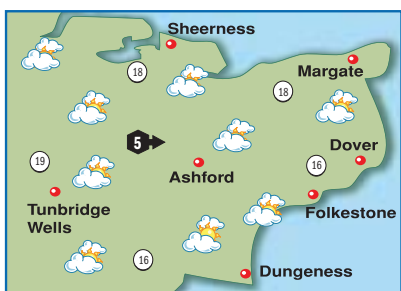
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Kent today



TODAY: A mainly dry day with sunny spells, although cloud will build in most areas by late morning. Gentle and variable winds. Sea breezes around the coast. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). **TONIGHT:** It will be dry through the night with some clear spells. Light winds. Min temp 9-11C (48-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	14	57	London	fair	21	70
Belfast	drizzle	16	61	Liverpool	cloudy	16	61
Birmingham	fair	19	66	Manchester	cloudy	17	63
B'mouth	fair	19	66	Newcastle	fair	17	63
Bristol	sun	16	61	Norwich	fair	19	66
Cardiff	fair	18	64	Oxford	cloudy	20	68
Cork	cloudy	17	63	Southsea	fair	19	66
Edinburgh	cloudy	15	59	S'hampton	fair	18	64
Glasgow	cloudy	14	57	Southport	fair	15	59
Isle of Man	cloudy	15	59	Swansea	fair	17	63
Leeds	cloudy	16	61	Torquay	fair	19	66

Sun & moon

Sunrise	4.37am	Sunset	9.14pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	5.17am	Moonsset	10.26pm	9.14pm to 4.37am

High Tides

	today	tomorrow
	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	12.22 6.5	00.37 6.5 13.11 6.6
Margate	01.00 4.6 13.18 4.5	01.45 4.7 14.03 4.6
St Mary's	05.54 5.4 18.15 5.6	06.41 5.4 19.02 5.7

Week ahead

monday A few showers. max 18C min 9C	thursday Remaining fine. max 22C min 10C
tuesday Mainly dry. max 18C min 8C	friday Dry and bright. max 23C min 10C
wednesday Sunny spells. max 20C min 9C	saturday Largely dry. max 23C min 11C

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Eurotunnel prepared to bid for train line

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

on domestic trains or Eurostar would be wholly unacceptable.

"It sounds as though we could be in danger of taking something which is already unstable and making it worse, it all depends what the sale of the line entails."

According to reports, the Department for Transport (DfT) and Government-owned London and Continental Railways (LCR) will distribute a sales document to potential HS1 bidders before the emergency Budget on June 22.

The DfT refused to comment on

the speculation, but an LCR spokesman told KOS Media that while an announcement has yet to be made, it was always planned that the line would eventually be sold off.

Tunde Olatunji of the rail watchdog Passenger Focus said: "We would be interested to make sure the sale will not have an adverse impact on passengers."

Former transport minister Steve Ladyman – the ex-Labour MP for Thanet South – said assurances were needed that whoever purchases the line

should not be allowed to increase cross-Channel services at the expense of domestic ones.

He added: "Eurostar no longer has a monopoly on the line so the last thing we want is for new owners of the line to come in with views that could restrict the domestic services. We'll have to keep a close eye on that because if they allow too many international services then it could have a detrimental effect."

The sell-off of HS1 and its stations was proposed last October by then-Prime Minister Gordon

Brown, who promised to offload a portfolio of 'non-financial assets' over the next two years in an attempt to raise £16bn.

The Dartford crossing was also included in the for-sale list, sparking fears of even higher charges for motorists already long fed-up with tolls there.

Following the announcement of the proposed HS1 sale, Eurotunnel – which runs the Channel Tunnel – put itself forward as a potential bidder. A spokesman confirmed to KOS Media this week that this was still the case.

Fury as coalition cuts free school meal pilot

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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UNION officials have blasted the Government for scrapping a universal free meal pilot project for primary school pupils in Medway.

Children whose parents receive income support or jobseeker's allowance will continue to eat without cost, but they will no longer be joined by their classmates as had been promised.

Medway was one of five regions due to pilot a year-long scheme from September, but the Con-Lib coalition has ditched the initiative and blamed the previous government for underestimating its cost by nearly £200 million.

Brian Strutton, of the GMB union, said delegates at the annual congress this week were "furious" at the news.

Evidence

He said: "Trial provision of free primary school meals in Durham and Newham have produced hard evidence of their success and cost-effectiveness. On this evidence, the piloting of free school meals was extended to all regions of England so it beggars belief that the new government has decided unilaterally – without consultation – to pull the plug on a socially necessary project."

"Delegates are furious. So we start to get the flavour of the new Government – attacking families and children while feather-bedding the wealthy."

Medway was one of five areas due to pilot the universal free school meals scheme, along with Bradford, Islington in London, Nottingham and Cumbria.

The Medway pilot would have seen free



MEAL DEAL: The year-long pilot project would have benefited Medway pupils

meals offered to every pupil in seven schools in areas of social deprivation, such as Luton and Gillingham.

It was due to investigate if healthy eating had an impact on issues such as obesity, behaviour, academic performance, school standards and health and wellbeing.

The Government says scrapping the scheme will save £35m nationally over the next financial year.

A spokesman for the Department for Education said: "As the Education Secretary (Michael Gove) made clear in his letter to Ed Balls dated June 7, we are not stopping free school meals and all pupils who are already

eligible will continue to receive them.

"We are, however, ending the expansion of eligibility this year. The decision was made because the cost of extending eligibility was significantly higher than anticipated by the previous government."

"Money saved this year will be invested in projects to boost the attainment of children from disadvantaged families."

A Medway Council official said: "We have been notified of the Government's announcement and are looking into what this means."

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Police station upgrades 'a waste of £2m'

POLICE have spent more than £2 million upgrading station receptions to make them more "visitor-friendly".

The four-year project has seen nine main receptions, including Kent Police headquarters in Maidstone, being modernised, with new front counters, automatic doors, private interview rooms, disabled access and enhanced CCTV, at a cost of £1.3 million.

A further 30 public reception areas at police contact points and stations have been upgraded, costing £970,000, with work ranging from construction to new signs.

A force spokesman said the funding involved was not included in the annual budget, but was a one-off cost.

Kent's Deputy Chief Constable, Gary Beautridge, said: "It's important that everybody who visits our buildings recognises them easily and can access all the information they need without difficulty."

Corporate identity

"When someone visiting a police station in Kent needs to report a crime they can be assured they can do so in a comfortable, secure environment which has the facilities to meet all their requirements."

But staff at some of the stations have criticised the project, calling it unnecessary.

One, speaking on behalf of some officers and asking not to be named, said: "It's all about creating a corporate identity and ensuring everything conforms, but it's not needed."

"Individual quirks of the separate stations are being removed."

"For example, in one near the Channel Tunnel there's a map on the wall so when a foreigner unable to speak English comes in, they can point to their country and an interpreter is called. This is being taken down to make room for four blue Kent Police panels, which are being put in every station."

"Counters are also being made exactly the same height and security panels in some stations are being taken down, so in rougher areas there is now no protection for officers on the desk. It seems ridiculous to spend this amount on something that's not needed."

Murderer Tobin's new appeal date

MURDERER Peter Tobin has been given a new date to appeal against the sentence he received for killing a Scottish schoolgirl.

The killer, who lived in Irvine Drive, Margate, for a time, received a 30-year jail term for Vicky Hamilton's death but wants the sentence reduced. Tobin abducted Vicky from a bus stop in Falkirk in 1991 and buried her remains at his Margate home.

The appeal will be heard in a Scottish court on July 22, after an earlier attempt was put back when Tobin fell ill. Last year, Tobin was also jailed for life for the murder of teenager Dinah McNicol.

Her body was also found in his Margate garden and Tobin, 63, also murdered Polish student Angelika Kluk.

Jersey flights cut

PLANNED flights from Lydd airport to Jersey have been dropped after poor sales.

Tourism company CI Travel Group had been intending to operate the weekly route from July 10 to September 11, but announced it had decided to take action now before it became too costly.

Managing director Robert Mackenzie said: "Sales have not met expectations."

Lydd airport's Jo Oliver said: "While we are disappointed to learn of the decision to cancel the Jersey service, we remain confident Lydd can continue to expand the range of services offered here."

Kent International at Manston, Thanet, already operates a direct service to Jersey that runs for most of the year.



FOR SALE: Bugs Bunny as drawn by Rolf Harris, inset

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

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A ROLF Harris drawing will help reunite a family this Christmas when it is sold at auction.

Can you tell how yet? Well, the money will go towards the cost of a flight from Australia to London, so a family can be together once again in Kent.

Candice Cross, 30, moved to Oz but now misses her parents Sandra and Martin, and wants to come home to Rainham for the festive season, but the cost of the peak season flight is prohibitive.

That's why Candice is willing to give up the artwork, done by Rolf just for her in the late 1980s at a holiday camp where he was appearing at the time.

The sketch of Bugs Bunny is expected to raise at least £300, said staff at Canterbury Auction Galleries where it will be sold soon.

Candice met Rolf at Butlins in Bognor Regis. She and her family were just taking their seats for the show when she was asked up on stage by the Perth-born entertainer.

Sandra, 53, said: "She was a very confident little girl and didn't hesitate. She and a handful of kids talked to him for a while and at the end, he quickly drew a portrait of Bugs Bunny and presented it to her."

"It's one of her treasured possessions and she's never parted with it until now. The cost of airline tickets doubles at Christmas, so the money will come in really handy."

Rolf, 80, has a serious background in fine art. He attended the City and Guilds

Family pulls Rolf's rabbit from hat for a reunion at Christmas

Art School in London in the early 1950s and has exhibited at the Royal Academy in London.

Adding to the coincidences in Candice's life, her partner Darren King, 31, was an IT specialist in Rainham. His twin brother Jamie works in the same industry and fell for Candice's sister Paula, 24. Now, through a bizarre set of yet more coincidences, all of them live in Australia.

Candice moved there through her work in the travel industry, which took her around the world. She lives in Sydney and her radiographer sister in Brisbane.

Sandra said they were looking forward to a



Martin and Sandra Cross

huge Christmas family reunion and maybe even a double wedding.

She said: "I keep dropping broad hints."

Auctioneer Mike Roberts said: "We are delighted to do our bit to bring a family together for Christmas."

On learning that Rolf's sketch might draw a £300 contribution to the cost of the ticket, Candice decided to sell and it will be auctioned in the saleroom's two-day sale on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22-23.

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Hate mail sent to family of BP boss

By **JON COATES**

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THE family of BP boss Tony Hayward have received hate mail and threatening phone calls from people angered by the devastating oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

And Kent Police have launched an operation to protect the chief executive's wife Maureen and their two children at their home in a village near Sevenoaks.

Police sources have told a national newspaper there is an "ongoing police operation" in light of the threats made.

But a spokeswoman for the Kent force today said: "We are not making any comment on this."

So far about one million barrels of oil have leaked from the spill into the Gulf of Mexico, creating an environmental disaster that has outraged people in the United States.

Amid the growing hostility to BP in America after public statements made by BP chief executive Mr Hayward, his family has received menacing phone calls and disturbing mail.



AWAY: BP chief executive Tony Hayward

Mrs Hayward told the national newspaper that the material arriving in her post had made her and their children feel "rather uncomfortable".

She said: "Members of my family have had nasty phone calls and we have also had mail from groups."

"Tony is obviously away and we are miles away from him, so it's upsetting."

The house where the family live can only be reached by a private road and is protected by a 12ft high perimeter hedge.

Mr Hayward has been interviewed as the face of BP since the oil leak started on April 20. He has been vilified in the States, being dubbed "the most hated and clueless man in America" by one newspaper, for making insensitive or over-optimistic comments about the spill.

Mr Hayward has refused to resign and defended BP for spending at least \$1.25 billion on the oil spill that followed an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig.

It is estimated that the final figure for dealing with the crisis could be about \$30bn.

BP this week also strongly defended its performance in compensating local businesses, despite criticism from US President Barack Obama that payments were not being made quickly enough.

The company said that a containment device lowered on to the ruptured well captured 11,000 barrels of oil with plans in place to increase that amount to 20,000 barrels. The government has estimated that up to 25,000 barrels a day are being lost.

The value of BP shares has almost halved since the crisis started, and President Obama has said he would have sacked Mr Hayward.

Guards for rare heron chicks

AN OPERATION to protect the country's only breeding pair of purple herons has so far proved successful, with eggs believed to have hatched within the last fortnight.

The birds made headlines when they arrived at Dungeness RSPB reserve at the end of April and soon began building a nest.

The event will certainly have attracted the attention of the country's tiny but determined band of egg-collectors, prompting the RSPB to establish a 24-hour guard on the birds.

Kent Police, the MoD police, and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary have also helped to keep the birds safe.

Spokesman Robert Jones said: "We're out and about day and night – and between us we're always in more than one place at a time."

To see this search 'woodchurch' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks visits Woodchurch RSPCA centre, which wants to expand by building 20 new kennels

Actors to bloom into honorary graduates

PIRATES of the Caribbean heart-throb Orlando Bloom is to receive an honorary degree from the University of Kent.

The 33-year-old actor, who found fame as Legolas in Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings trilogy, will be joined by Poirot star David Suchet OBE, who is also being made an honorary graduate at the ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral.

Bloom, who was born and raised in the city, trained with the British American Drama Academy and is a former student of London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

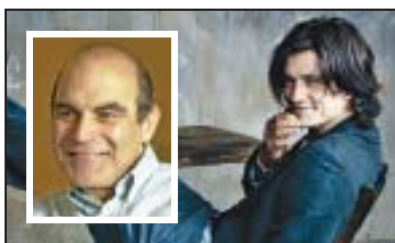
Gracing stage and screen, Bloom's profile has continued to grow since his breakthrough roles as elf-prince Legolas in 2001 and Will Turner in Pirates of the Caribbean in 2003.

He will collect his degree on July 13, alongside Suchet, who is best known for his role as Agatha Christie's detective Poirot in the long-running British TV series.

The 64-year-old has also appeared in numerous West End productions and was nominated for an Olivier award for his performance as Antonio Salieri in Amadeus.

Ten others are set to receive honorary degrees at ceremonies from July 13-16 at the cathedral, with one at Rochester Cathedral.

They include senior law lord Baron Bingham of Cornhill Thomas Bingham; writer and literary critic Molly Mahood; professor of government at Oxford University



RECOGNITION: David Suchet (inset) and Orlando Bloom are among those who will receive degrees from the University of Kent

Vernon Bogdanor CBE; and telecommunications entrepreneur Charles Wigoder.

Others are professor of biochemistry at the University of Warwick Robert Freedman; Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE, Emeritus professor of European archaeology at the University of Oxford; philosophy lecturer Colin McGinn; Professor Ruth Farwell, vice-chancellor and chief executive at Buckinghamshire New University; and Professor John Harris, one of the UK's leading bio-ethicists.

The university will award an honorary degree to urological surgeon Martin Sheriff on July 16 at Rochester Cathedral. He is the lead cancer surgeon and clinical lead for the West Kent Urology Cancer Centre.

A HANDWRITTEN letter from Winston Churchill was among several rare antiques stolen from a car.

A first-edition of the 1952 book Forward Arsenal by Bernard Joy was also included in the haul, as was a wooden suitcase

with the stencilled initials WRB on the lid.

The antiques were stolen from a car parked in Oare Creek, Faversham, between 11pm on May 31, and 7am the following morning.

It is thought the items may be sold on at a boot fair or to antique dealers.

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THE INTERVIEW



BY JANE CONNOLLY

Artist will help Rwandan children deal with the past



GIVING BACK: Opera director, Francesca Gilpin, artistic director of Opera by Definition is working with charity Dramatic Need to help young people in Africa express trauma through storytelling

OPERA director Francesca Gilpin hopes to make a dramatic difference to the lives of Rwandan children later this year.

As co-founder and artistic director of Tunbridge Wells-based Opera by Definition, she has plenty of experience in telling stories on a grand scale. But when Gilpin travels to Africa with the charity Dramatic Need, she will be helping young people to uncover the personal and intimate stories that have affected their lives.

"Dramatic Need helps to deal with conflict resolution, HIV and health messages, and sexual issues, but I will be going as an artist, not a counsellor," she said. "The whole point is to devise and develop workshops with the children to help them tell their story."

The charity sends artists, actors and other volunteers from creative professions to rural communities in South Africa in order to help children to express their emotions and experiences. In November, Gilpin will be spending three weeks in Rwanda where she will work with children on rhythm, sound and storytelling, rather than opera. Her visit culminates in a performance by the children, which she hopes will help them to address the past.

"There are a lot of things you can deal with in a dramatic sense with storytelling," she said. "I understand that it's forbidden to refer to the genocide in Rwanda and to the different tribes. Even though the different tribes still exist, they are very much



HELPED: Some of the Rwandan children helped by Dramatic Need

integrated, but friendships remain within tribal groups. Through games and drama, you can enable children to release through play some of the trauma they have experienced as a nation. If the children are having a good time and playing, they can deal with some of these issues without really realising it.

"So the long-term benefits are perhaps more important than the short-term benefits."

Although Gilpin has travelled to Africa several times, she has not been involved in a project like this before. But Dramatic Need's work seemed like the perfect way for the freelance opera director to support a good cause.

"It was recommended by a singer friend who sent me details of the website. I'd been looking for a project to take part in, to give something back to the community, and it just seemed to be absolutely the right

thing at the right time."

Having seen the positive impact the arts can have in this country, Gilpin believes the charity's work can make a real difference to the lives of African children.

"The arts give children more confidence and help them to articulate better," she said. "This is somewhere there is very little art and they live very simple lives, so to help them explore those issues that face them as a nation is a great gift."

Opera by Definition is supporting Dramatic Need by staging Opera Café with top soprano Emma Bell at the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells this Saturday (June 12). Tickets cost £25/£20 and can be booked online at www.trinitytheatre.net or on 01892 678678.

Anyone who misses the show can donate to Dramatic Need at www.just-giving.com/FranGilpinRwanda.

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Immigrant boys to be sent home

Centre will enable young asylum seekers to return to Afghanistan

By **MARIJKE COX**

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A reintegration centre in Afghanistan for unaccompanied asylum seeker children will take the burden off the county's services, according to immigration minister Damian Green.

The Ashford MP said the new centre would be of significant benefit to Kent, with the county being one of two areas in the UK, the other in Hillingdon, near Heathrow airport, most affected by child asylum seekers.

Last year, Kent County Council spent £12 million looking after the children, although the authority can claim this back from central Government. An agreement of over £4m owed to KCC meant residents saw a smaller council tax rise earlier this year.

Burden

Mr Green told KOS Media: "For the county's taxpayers the centre would mean Kent no longer having to bear the burden of giving these children living accommodation and other services."

The British Government proposes to have the £4m reception area set up in Kabul, Afghanistan, so unaccompanied Afghan boys, aged around 16-17, can be deported.

Home Office figures show there are more than 4,200 unaccompanied child asylum seekers in Britain, with the largest number being Afghans.

Mr Green said the centre would provide the boys, who arrived in Britain alone, with a safe place to go when they are deported, with teaching facilities and support.

"It will give them a chance of a better life where they will be safe and have people to help them," he



LESS COST: MP Damian Green says the new centre would ease the strain on the county's finances

said. "When unaccompanied asylum seekers turn 18 they get deported, but with this service they get sent somewhere they will be protected. We want to improve their life in their own country."

The plans have come under fire by refugee and human rights organisations who claim there is no guarantee the children will be safe.

Donna Covey, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said there are serious questions to be asked on the quality of the decision-making on the cases of unaccompanied children.

"There has been little said about how these children would be kept safe," she said. "It really begs the question: if they have no family to whom they can be returned safely, should they be returned at all?"

"The money would be better spent improving the way children's claims are assessed, so that we can be sure we never put them in danger."

Mr Green, however, said tenders are being put out to reputable organisations who want to help the youngsters get a better life.



OFFENDING PICTURE: Yalice Marino

Hair-raising poster girl causes a stir

A HAIRDRESSER'S giant sexy poster of his wife has upset the council and some residents in a conservation area.

Marcello Marino put up the poster of wife Yalice on the side of his salon in West Cliff Road, Ramsgate. Some residents are upset she is wearing a jacket undone, showing off her cleavage.

But Thanet District Council is miffed because he didn't bother asking for planning permission. Not that he is likely to get it because of the conservation area zoning.

The authority said it takes a dim view of posters on some of its best older buildings because they don't fit in with the rest of the area.

Mr Marino said: "I just don't see what I wrong with it. It does show a little bit of cleavage, but it is done nice and tastefully. And, of course, this is my own wife - I am not exploiting someone else just to promote my business."

Hard times

"Like all small businesses, times are hard and I am just trying to put the place on the map so people know where to come for the best hairstyles in Kent."

A complaint was made to the council, which has now written to Mr Marino telling him to take the monster poster down.

The 41-year-old enjoys time in the limelight. Last year he appeared on Britain's Got Talent when he upset judge Simon Cowell by telling him he needs a more modern haircut.

The council is standing firm. It said: "For a banner of this size and location, planning permission to display an advert is required."

"We have written to the owner explaining this, and also that planning permission for this advert would be unlikely as the property is in a conservation area."



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Kent's maiden MPs come out fighting

A NEWLY elected MP has thrown his weight behind controversial plans to hand the running of police forces over to directly elected commissioners.

In his maiden speech to Parliament this week, Tory Rochester and Strood representative Mark Reckless - also a member of the Kent Police Authority (KPA) - said he supported the changes set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

But his comments are at odds with those of KPA chairwoman Ann Barnes, who last month warned the chasing of votes could take

priority over the pursuit of criminals.

Mr Reckless also criticised the Association of Chief Police Officers in his speech, describing the body as a "closed shop".

He said: "It has its committees and its cabinet, and it issues instructions to us in Kent on how much we should charge for policing the Faversham carnival or the Maidstone river festival."

Mr Reckless is one of several new Kent MPs to have already delivered their maiden speeches in the House of Commons. Others include Gordon Henderson (Sittingbourne &

Sheppey), Charlie Elphicke (Dover), Damian Collins (Folkestone and Hythe), Jo Johnson (Orpington) and Bob Stewart (Beckenham).

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson also stood before the House for the first time last week, voicing his determination that the controversial tolls at the Dartford Crossing be scrapped.

He said: "The tolls remain in force despite previous assurances, and they create congestion and misery across the entire area. They act as a literal road block to the opening-up of the Thames Gateway."

Willett's gratitude after tumour op

THE LORD Lieutenant of Kent Allan Willett is recovering at home after an operation to remove a malignant tumour.

The Queen's representative says he has been inundated with hundreds of goodwill messages following the recurrence of prostate cancer after 14 years.

He is convalescing at his Chilham home while awaiting radiation therapy, and is not expected to resume full duties until September.

Mr Willett said: "My wife Anne and I are deeply grateful to all who have sent me so many supportive messages at this difficult time."

While he is undergoing treatment his public duties will be carried out by his Vice Lord Lieutenant, Viscount De L'Isle MBE DL, and his countywide team of deputy lieutenants.

Picture: CANWEST



EXTRADITED: John Cox hid in the county

Paedophile suspect sent back to Canada

By CHRIS MURPHY

A MAN wanted in Canada on child abuse charges has been sent back after hiding in Kent for months.

John Cox, 34, avoided being found in Ashford by using what Kent police said were "anti-tracking methods".

He was finally picked up by officers from Kent Police's Public Protection Unit on May 5, following a joint operation with officers from Child Exploitation and Online Protection.

The extradition procedure then started and now the IT specialist is back in the custody of Saanich police having been flown out of the UK on an international arrest warrant through Interpol.

The Canadian national had fled Saanich, in British Columbia, before he was due to stand trial on nine counts of child sex offences including grooming and possession of indecent images which had allegedly happened in Saanich and Colwood between September, 2006, and September, 2008.

He had been due to face a court in Victoria, Canada, on February 15 this year, but vanished before turning up in Ashford having arrived via Heathrow airport.

Using the aliases of Sean Pulsen and Jean Guillaume and utilising hi-tech computer software and encryption methods to disguise his online identity, Cox attempted to dodge detection while here in Kent.

Det Insp Matthew Long said: "Public protection is Kent Police's priority. Officers worked swiftly in order to ensure this man did not pose any risk within our community."

"I am pleased he has now been extradited back to Canada where he will face the

charges put to him. We will not tolerate anyone who puts children at risk within our county and will work with other agencies in this country and abroad, to ensure crimes against children are stopped."

And Det Insp Jon Holl, from South Kent Public Protection Unit, praised the effectiveness of working relationships between agencies and the quality of his staff.

He added: "This is a practical example of the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies from local to international level working together to protect children in Ashford and across the UK."

"I am immensely proud of my specialist team of investigators, often working invisibly to the general public to protect our children."

And Jim Gamble, chief executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, said: "This potentially dangerous individual tried very hard to cover his tracks, but he had underestimated the determination of CEOP and Kent Police officers to capture him. Hopefully Cox – and other suspected child sex offenders – will realise that the UK is not a safe place for them."

Saanich police Chief Mike Chadwick said: "Time and distance are no longer barriers people may use easily to evade justice when accused of criminal behaviour."

"We are using advances in technology and communication to our advantage."

"Crimes against children continue to be a top priority for policing agencies throughout the world."

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Autistic children ending up with 'harmful services'

SHOCKING accounts from parents of autistic children have revealed how a lack of Government support has led to their youngsters developing mental health problems.

And figures published by the National Autistic Society (NAS) have shown how 70 per cent of children with autism – a lifelong developmental disability – have mental health problems which could have been prevented.

A report by the organisation found that in many cases this was dismissed by the NHS as an unavoidable side effect of having autism, despite it not being a mental health condition.

Mark Lever, chief executive of NAS, said the NHS offers "inappropriate, ineffectual and sometimes harmful treatments" and called on the new Government to prioritise the problem.

"Too many children with autism are developing preventable mental health problems and find themselves up against a broken system that doesn't understand them or their needs," he said.

"Parents and professionals alike are crying out for more autism support. The NHS needs to know how to help them and the Government needs to know it can't wait."

Struggling

The Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, which helps people experiencing mental health problems, said they are not commissioned to help children with autism, but deal with a lot of young people on the autistic spectrum suffering psychological difficulties.

A spokeswoman said: "We are aware how our society needs to change to allow these young people and their families to experience a better quality of life."

"Funding for appropriate services and resources would be of further assistance to these young people."

But for Elizabeth and Dean Whattler, whose son Tim had Asperger's syndrome and ADHD, any changes will come too late.

Tim committed suicide aged just 17, after struggling to receive support from child and adolescent mental health services for his depression and ADHD.

Mrs Whattler, from Bromley, said: "Tim was eight when he was finally diagnosed with Asperger's, a form of autism. It took a couple of years of seeing a selection of psychiatrists who made me feel like I was just being neurotic."

"We didn't get much help at all. Some nurses had no knowledge of how to deal with it."

"When he committed suicide he was in an adult psychiatric unit in a downgraded room

By **MARIJKE COX**

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away from the nurses, with shoelaces and 10 ligature points giving him a choice of where to hang himself. This was even though he was a high risk of suicide because of repeated attempts. He was grossly neglected."

Mrs Whittler said she backs the new NAS campaign, You Need to Know, which looks to tackle unfit services.

She said: "There needs to be more research done on intervention; nurses need to be trained in how to deal with children with autism and there needs to be more work carried out on prevention."

Tom Madder, author of the NAS report, said there needed to be more direction and training within the NHS to prevent autistic children developing mental health problems.

"Seven out of 10 develop a mental health problem, which are usually preventable," he said. "Help is too few and far between. The Government is failing these children."

One in 100 children have autism, with research showing 83 per cent experience mental health problems before the age of 10.

NAS found more than 40 per cent of parents whose children are registered with mental health problems said their condition has worsened due to lack of essential provisions.

But a spokeswoman for NHS West Kent, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and Kent County Council, said the issue is a priority.

She said: "We work together and alongside primary mental health workers, specialist teachers, school counsellors, social workers and voluntary sector workers to promote the mental health and well being of children and young people with autism and their families."

"We are doing more to meet the needs of disabled children, such as those with autism."

"The findings from the NAS report will be taken into account when reviewing the training offered to professionals and the processes to review the quality of the services offered."

"Across Kent, specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are commissioned to support children and young people who have a joint diagnosis of a mental health disorder and autism."

"In East Kent there is a specialist Learning and Challenging Behaviour Service that provides training and advice to CAMHS."

Unidentified flying... lantern?

MYSTERIOUS lights have been spotted over Strood, and the witness has ruled out popular Chinese lanterns.

With many sightings being put down to the orange glow of the flying paper balls, a new UFO witness is convinced what they saw was not a Chinese lantern.

The six UFOs were seen by two people on Saturday, June 5, at 10.40pm over Strood, according to a report on the Vike Factor blog website.

The report reads: "Last night at around 22.40 in Strood, Medway, myself and a friend witnessed a bright orange light in the sky with a very faint white halo around the outside which appeared to rotate."

"It approached from the west at approximately 1,000ft-high and possibly one-mile

away. It was moving in an arc towards the south, totally silent and in no way a helicopter or plane or anything identifiable."

"It then slowed to a stop, hovered, reversed and then began moving away back towards the west. Then another appeared over the roof tops following a similar course and then another and all were identical in appearance, speed, height, etc."

David Wasabi, a part-time photographic assistant, got in touch with KoS Media with his blurry pictures of a UFO.

He said: "I saw some orange lights travelling from roughly Ashford direction heading over to Sheppey."

"All I could see was an orange blob. It was low like a helicopter, but it was silent – maybe a lantern being carried away by erratic winds?"



WEIRD: Is this a UFO?



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JAIL: Corrigan (left) and accomplice Johnson

Con stole £25,000 out on day release

A PRISONER who masterminded an armed robbery while he was out on day release from an Isle of Sheppey prison has been jailed for 11 years.

Neil Corrigan, 28, of no fixed address, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court this week after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit armed robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

At the time of the robbery he was on day release from HMP Stamford Hill where he was serving a nine-year sentence for robbery.

Corrigan was charged alongside accomplice Ricky Aaron Johnson, 25, of no fixed address, who also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit armed robbery. He was jailed for nine years.

Corrigan admitted pointing a gun in the face of a security guard who was transferring cash from Barclays bank in Swanley to a waiting security van on August 11, 2009.

The thug snatched the bag containing £25,000 before running to a getaway car in St Mary's Road, Swanley, followed by Johnson.

Corrigan was arrested on September 4, 2009. Johnson gave himself up to a police station on September 13, after police launched extensive search.

He said he had planned the robbery in order to pay off a debt.

By **MARIJKE COX**

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A CANCER charity involved in the Government's decision to spend £200 million on life-prolonging drugs says the funding cannot wait.

Andrew Wilson-Webb, chief executive of the Rarer Cancers Foundation, believes if plans are left until 2011, as set out in the coalition government agreement, hundreds of cancer sufferers could be affected.

"We're delighted this funding has been made available, but it's got to be brought forward to 2010," he said.

The Government has allowed for £200m to be made available so medication recommended by doctors, but not approved by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE), will be accessible.

Exceptional

NICE evaluates the clinical and cost effectiveness of drug technology which means, in some cases, patients can be denied treatment even though consultants say it will prolong their life.

The £200m figure was drawn up using research by the Canterbury-based Rarer Cancers Foundation, which looked into the approval and refusal rate for drugs by NICE during 2008. It also looked at applications for cancer medication at 156 primary care trusts.

Mr Wilson-Webb said: "There were 16,000 refusals in total. In addition, we looked into independent funding requests and exceptional case procedures. There were 3,000 applications made of which 1,000 were refused. We estimated at the time the cost to fund these would be around £175m, so now about £200m.

"This money is drug funding for unmet needs – for example, the 1,000 patients turned down by their PCTs in exceptional case procedures."

Terminally ill mum-of-two Nikki Phelps,

Government warned £200m cancer drug fund is needed now



FIGHTER: Nikki Phelps with her family

from Luddesdown, near Gravesend, died last month of a rare glandular cancer, two weeks after winning an appeal to have a life-prolonging drug paid for by the NHS.

The 37-year-old had fought against a decision by health chiefs at NHS West Kent not to fund Sunitinib.

They claimed there was not enough evidence to prove the drug, which is used for kidney cancer, would work on her condition.

She won her appeal for the £100-a-day medication – which had been recommended by her consultant – to be paid for, but died two weeks later.

Mr Wilson-Webb said: "Nikki Phelps would have been one of the patients who had to go through the exceptional case procedures and was refused drugs."

He added: "People have argued the cost will amount to more than £200m, but pharmaceutical companies and the Department of Health are looking at the Patients Access Scheme which gives a discount of 20-25 per cent overall on drugs. It makes the cost of these drugs – which are expensive – much cheaper.

"Some people have also commented that after three years this funding will run out and we'll be back to square one, but that's not the case. A new system will be put in place.

"We need to put pressure on Government now though to ensure the funding is made available this year. If it doesn't come until next spring, some 750 people will be affected."

Positive

Sir Andrew Dillon, chief executive of NICE, said the organisation is continuing to use its current approach to assess cancer treatments.

"This already applies a more generous weighting for drugs which extend life at the end of life," he said.

"We recommend most cancer treatments that we are asked to look at, for example, since 2000, 74 per cent of our recommendations have been positive.

"We will be happy to work with the new government when it puts its new arrangements in place for extending access to higher cost cancer treatments which carry a greater opportunity cost for the NHS that would normally be the case for new drugs recommended by NICE."

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Lifeline to lost loved ones, or exploiting grief for cash?

By **MARIJKE COX**

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THEY profess to contact the dead, passing on messages from the afterlife to grieving families hoping to hear from a dead loved one.

For many they bring hope and relief, where information – which may or may not be from the spirit world – allows them peace of mind.

But for others, the shows are simply entertainment and the mediums just showmen.

Since their popularity grew – and continues to grow – with TV shows and UK tours, many mediums have come under fire by sceptics who claim they are exploiting vulnerable people.

Despite this, in recent years, council-owned venues have become a hotbed for medium and psychic shows, with big names such as Colin Fry and Sally Morgan gracing stages of theatres across Kent.

Under European law, however, local authorities must issue a disclaimer in publicity material stating there is no scientific evidence to prove mediumship is true. They should also state the shows are for entertainment purposes only.

But some authorities fail to include this in some of their promotion, with some even being seen to endorse mediums and their work.

In the run-up to a show at the Woodville Halls on June 15 by Gordon Smith, Gravesend Borough Council issued a promotional email headlined "An evening of real mediumship, not fortune telling," which claimed: "From an early childhood, Gordon had the ability to see, sense and hear spirit people."

The council also said that when Mr Smith was 24 he saw his friend's dead brother at his bedside.

The material did not include a disclaimer warning people, who may be hoping to hear from a dead loved one, that the show was for entertainment purposes only.

This newspaper asked whether the authority supported mediums – which was suggested through its promotion of the £20-a-ticket event.

A spokeswoman said: "The theatre does not take any responsibility for or support the claims of the performer and accepts no liability as a result of the performance."



BELIEF: Medium Gordon Smith says he is helping people

The spokeswoman directed KOS Media to a disclaimer that is given at the point of ticket purchase, which read: "Due to the introduction of recent European legislation we would like to make you aware that this performance is for entertainment purposes only."

"There is no credible, independent evidence whatsoever that the performer has the ability to make contact with dead people, or foretell the future."

The council refused to comment on how much profit was made from medium shows at the Woodville Halls, citing the information as commercially sensitive.

The spokeswoman added: "The Woodville Halls supports Gordon Smith as an entertainer who is performing on our stage, but does not necessarily support a particular show's narrative or theme."

Medium and psychic shows are held at venues including the Maidstone Borough Council-run Hazlitt Theatre and the Orchard Theatre, which is run by an entertainment for Dartford Borough Council.

Ticket prices range from £20-30.

Anne Owen, who lives near Maidstone, has a long and successful career as a psychic, but believes people are exploited by some mediums.

"I'm a remote viewer – I hate the word psychic, but that's what people call me," she said.

"I'm respected in my field and have worked for the Government and with the police. I've worked on murder cases and on the anthrax attacks in the USA. I can diagnose from sight."

Despite her psychic abilities, which she claims she has had since a birth, she said she did not condone medium shows.

"I think some mediums and psychics exploit people and about 80 per cent of them are out to make money," she said.

But others in the field believe these shows help people.

Mr Smith said: "It can create happiness, healing and sometimes relief. Some people can heal just by hearing a message from a loved one who has passed away that used to suffer with pain but is now comfortable."

"I've never really looked at it as a profession. I look at it as a way of helping people."

But Paul Sims, from the New Humanist Magazine, part of the Rationalist Association, said: "If

Gordon Smith thinks being a medium is less a profession and more a way of helping people why does he charge £20 a ticket?

"By promoting such shows in an unquestioning manner local councils risk looking like they're facilitating this exploitation, while taking a share of money that I'm sure many of their residents would think was acquired by dubious means."

"I'm not saying councils shouldn't allow such shows to go ahead in their venues, but they could at least make it clear to potential ticket buyers that they would be coming to be entertained and not to hear from their dead relatives."

Do you know child attacker?

POLICE have released an edit image of a man suspected of accosting an eight-year-old boy.



The incident took place on May 9 between 4.50-5pm in the area by Guildhall Street North and Darby Road in Folkestone.

The boy was playing with friends but he arrived home upset, shortly after the rest of the group had left to go home, saying a man had grabbed at his shoulder.

The man is white, but tanned, 5ft 10in, with dark hair and an accent.

He wore a dark coat and jeans and was with a second man drinking a can of lager.

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Suspect powder in lorry

A TRUCKER has been charged after a suspected haul of amphetamines and ecstasy was discovered in his lorry at Dover.

The suspected drugs, with an estimated street value of £1 million, were found at the Eastern Docks. UK Border Agency officers searched the vehicle with a

sniffer dog and found three holdalls containing about 100kg of white powder and tablets.

Ralph Cross, 59, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody after appearing at Folkestone Magistrates' Court, where he did not enter a plea. Inquiries are continuing.

School closure halted

A PRIMARY school threatened with closure has been saved by an independent adjudicator.

St John's Infant School, Chatham, had been deemed surplus to requirements by Medway Council in an overhaul of the towns' schools.

Teachers, parents, pupils and councillors all objected to the proposal and their view has been backed by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

In his report, official Bryan Slater found "no strong case to shut the school" and rejected the council's plan.

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EDF faces £2 million fine after three-day power cut

ENERGY company EDF has less than a month to talk its way out of a potential massive penalty after a vandalism attack cut power to thousands of homes and businesses in north Kent last year, *writes Chris Murphy*.

About 94,000 homes were cut off for up to three days in July last year, something energy watchdog Ofgem says could be worth a 'fine' of £2 million.

Vandalism was blamed for the power cut to homes and businesses in Dartford, Orpington, Erith, Bexleyheath and Crayford, including Darent Valley Hospital. The attack took out four major circuits.

Ofgem says the company could have done far more to avoid the power cut but praised it for the work done to get the electricity supply restored, which required hundreds of engineers.

In an interim report, it said: "The auditor concluded that although the company responded well in restoring the supplies, it could have done more to prevent the power cut from occurring. Ofgem has reviewed the company's statement of fact, the auditor's report and other relevant information and agrees with the auditor's conclusion."

Inaccuracies

EDF Energy Networks has until July 7 to respond before Ofgem makes its final decision. The problems were caused by a fire at a cable bridge over Dartford Creek, but Ofgem said prevention and more frequent inspections should have been more of a priority.

But the power company said: "We believe there are a number of inaccuracies in the report. We do not agree with the view of the appointed examiner and continue to maintain that this was an exceptional event."

"We hope at the end of the process Ofgem will come to a fair conclusion."

"We do apologise for the inconvenience caused to customers by what happened. The intruders at Dartford disrupted people's lives and cost EDF Energy Networks several million pounds."

"Security is a priority for EDF Energy Networks and an important and integral part of our on-going investment. Copper theft remains an issue facing the whole industry."

However, Audrey Gallacher of Consumer Focus said: "It is essential that the tens of thousands of people affected by this power cut receive appropriate compensation."

"This blackout caused huge inconvenience to these households and it is only fair that they are compensated accordingly."



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TEAM EFFORT:
SeaGals on their
world-record
breaking mission

Oar-inspiring effort for our war heroes

All-girl rowing team enter gruelling round GB race to raise funds for soldiers' charity

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A GROUP of female rowers have taken on the boys in a battle of the sexes race around Great Britain in aid of Help for Heroes.

Not only do they face 2,010 miles of treacherous waters, merciless tides and the busiest shipping lane in the world, but the contest is unaided and non-stop.

But if the all-women crew complete the gruelling mission, they will break a world record by being the first-ever female rowers to complete – and even take part – in the Anglo-American Boat Race, now the Virgin GB Row.

The four-strong team, who are racing against an all-male group, are made up of English and American members, as is tradition with the 138-year-old race, which originated in 1872.

Laura Thomasson, from Kingsdown, near Dover, is one of the SeaGals team, which set off on the 24ft boat on Tuesday, June 1, from London's Tower Bridge.

By Wednesday the woman had reached Land's End and were 50 miles ahead of the men.



ROWING FOR IT: (l-r) Amanda Madsen, Beverley Ashton, Belinda Kirk and Laura Thomasson are taking part in the Virgin GB Row

The Royal Navy Nurse, who is a rower and medic in the challenge, joined Beverley Ashton, from Oxfordshire, skipper Belinda Kirk, from Bristol, and Californian paraplegic Angela Madsen.

The 24-year-old said: "I've been rowing since I was 13 and when I heard about the race I applied, but was told it was only for men."

"Then I learned a female crew was being put together and I knew I had to be in the boat."

Ms Thomasson is a member of Dover Rowing Club and has coxed crews rowing across the Channel.

She is currently waiting to be posted to Afghanistan.

Money raised will go to Help for Heroes, which supports members of the Armed Forces who have been wounded in service.

The teams are unable to stop at ports, with food carried on board and a special machine to make sea water drinkable.

First across the finishing line wins £45,000 of prizes and a trophy.

The 2005 race, which was longer at 2,110 miles, was completed in 26 days, 21 hours and 14 minutes, earning a place in the Guinness World Records.

• **To keep up-to-date with both the teams' progress visit www.gb-row-challenge.com/friends.php.**

Plans for Lord Bruce-Lockhart memorial

VILLAGERS have revealed plans to build a memorial in memory of much-loved former councillor Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart.

Members of Headcorn parish council are spearheading the proposal for a tribute to be built in the village – almost two years after Lord Bruce-Lockhart died from cancer.

Council chairman Tim Thomas, who was a good friend of the late former Kent County Council leader, said: "The memorial should be long-standing and in a place where everyone can see."

"I knew Sandy very well and he was a true villager who gave endless support to the community. He was a man that ought to be honoured."

Mr Thomas said the parish council had considered planting an oak tree on the village green.

He added: "The council has committed to providing a tribute, a tree with



POPULAR: Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

feet has been suggested, but we need to discuss the idea with our open spaces group and Sandy's wife Tess, who am I sure will be delighted with the plans for a memorial."

Lord Bruce-Lockhart was diag-

nosed with cancer in late 2007 and died aged 66 in August, 2008.

He had lived in Zimbabwe and Australia before moving to a house just outside Headcorn in the 1960s.

The father-of-three became a county councillor for Maidstone Rural East in 1989 after winning the support of residents by protesting against the route of the Channel Tunnel Link.

He went on to become the Conservative leader of KCC from 1997 to 2005.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart was knighted in the New Year's Honours List in 2002, and when he was made a peer in 2007 he was given the title of Baron Bruce-Lockhart, of The Weald in the County of Kent.

He was also appointed chairman of English Heritage shortly before he was diagnosed with cancer, but despite his illness he continued to fulfil his role.

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As World Cup fever grips the nation a football shirt signed by Stuart Pearce will

WIN! A signed England shirt



THROUGHOUT the course of his 12-year international career, tough-tackling defender Stuart Pearce was the epitome of English pride and passion.

Known for his marauding runs, powerful free kicks and no-nonsense leadership, the man known as 'Psycho' is still a hero to all who stand in support of the Three Lions.

These days Pearce, 48, is head coach of the England under-21 side and this weekend he sat alongside Fabio Capello as the senior squad kicked off their World Cup exploits against the USA in South Africa.

To mark the occasion we're giving away a World Cup 2010 England shirt signed by the man himself – kindly supplied by KOS Media's Fab Football partner the Kent County Football Association.

Fondly remembered for his intense celebration after scoring a penalty at Euro 96 – to make up for one he missed six years earlier at World Cup Italia 90 – Pearce will go down in history as one of his country's greatest ever players.

The man is also a hero at Nottingham Forest, where he spent 12 years of his career, including 10 as captain, and at several other Premiership clubs including Newcastle and West Ham, where he continued to give his all in every game he played.

The KOS Media Fab Football campaign aims to increase participation in the world's most popular sport at grassroots level.

England manager Fabio Capello and sports minister Hugh Robertson have already lent their backing to the initiative, which will run throughout the course of the World Cup and beyond.

It will highlight the health and social benefits of playing football, as well as provide information on how disabled people, women



PRIZE: The shirt signed by Stuart Pearce

and other minority groups can get involved.

You can get involved by emailing suggestions for stories to fabfooty@kentfa.com.

To stand a chance of winning the England shirt signed by Stuart Pearce, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address and daytime telephone number to England Shirt Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.

The closing date is July 2, 2010.

Question: What is Stuart Pearce's nickname?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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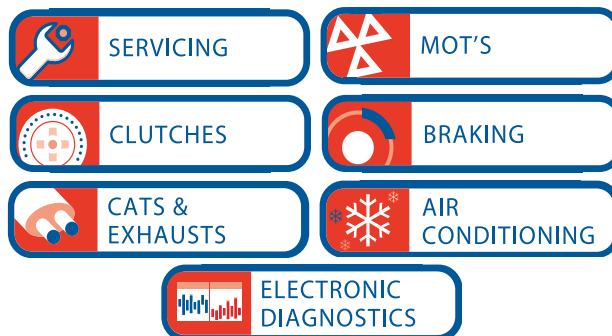
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give you even more to celebrate, and landlords look forward to a boost in takings

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

PUBLICANS will be cheering England on louder than most as they keep their fingers crossed for a lengthy World Cup campaign.

Football's most-watched competition represents a money-spinning month for landlords due to drinkers piling in to watch the tournament on big screens, with matches featuring the Three Lions being especially lucrative.

And the further Fabio Capello's men go, the better it is for pubs' finances.

Emma Pearson – landlady of the Waggon at Hale pub in Chatham – said business went through the roof during the last World Cup in 2006.

"There was a huge increase in profitability and turnover," she added.

"Football and pubs go hand in hand and every single pub that shows sport wants England to go as far in the competition as possible.

"We've got our fingers crossed and I'm hoping for at least a 70 per cent increase in turnover for the next month.

"However, realistically I think we'll be looking at double the trade with the economy the way it is."

The Waggon at



Pubs raise a glass to the World Cup

Hale is one of many pubs throughout the county that rely heavily on football to draw their customers through the door.

It was therefore arguably as disappointing for landlords as it was for England supporters when the Three Lions failed to qualify for the Euro 2008 tournament in Austria and Switzerland.

Mrs Pearson said it had a "dramatic effect" on her pub's takings, with sulking fans opting to stay at home rather than watch the competition go on without them.

Phil Thorley – operations director of the east Kent-based Thorley Taverns pub chain – admitted it was a big blow to the industry.

He said: "It was a real shame because people wanted to get involved. It was like we weren't invited to the party."

"Watching the World Cup is very enjoyable but the same buzz isn't there when England aren't playing. It's definitely a boost that they're involved this time round, but it's a shame the USA game was on a Saturday night when we're already busy."

"It would have been better if it was a

Tuesday or Wednesday, but we'll take whatever comes our way."

Mr Thorley said his firm had invested in a raft of new plasma screen TVs in preparation for the tournament, and that every Thorley Taverns pub also had a replica World Cup behind the bar to be raffled off for charity.

He added that the company had been preparing for weeks for the big kick-off, which took place on Friday when hosts South Africa kicked off against Mexico.

Mr Thorley said: "Apart from actually being at the games in person, nothing can compare to the excitement and passion of watching England play World Cup matches in the pub. 'We're all dressed up and ready to go.'"

Meanwhile, electrical retailers also benefited in the run-up to the competition.

Darren Caddell – manager of Sheppey firm Brittain and Hobbs – said: "It's been mental in here and we've been selling more than double the amount of TVs we normally would."

"A lot of companies are advertising HD and 3D televisions lately, and that's what people want to watch their football on these days."



Pictures: REK

ATMOSPHERE: Landlords expect to increase their takings as fans come out to watch Wayne Rooney and the rest of the England team battle to win the World Cup

WORLD Cup matches will be shown live on a giant television screen in Dover.

All of England's games will be broadcast on the screen in Market Square, as well as all other games presented by the BBC up to and including the quarter-finals.

If further funding can be secured, it is hoped the semi-finals and final will also be aired.

However, alcohol is banned

and some road closures may be necessary.

See www.bbc.co.uk/bigcreens/worldcup for more information.

Showcase Cinemas at Bluewater is also showing England's three group World Cup games on the big screen for free.

Tickets are available from the Showcase Cinemas Box Office 30 minutes before the game. See www.bluewater.co.uk.

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THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

Thousands more potholes filled in

KENT'S road repair crews have fixed 80,400 potholes since the start of the year, says County Hall.

This is nearly double the number filled during the first five months of last year.

Action was needed after the icy winter created thousands of potholes across the county.

Kent County Council's Cllr Nick Chard said: "We have taken on small and medium-sized specialised tarmac firms to repair minor roads on a 'find and fix' basis, filling all the holes they encounter on whole stretches of road and resurfacing sections that are badly damaged.

"These firms have been told to prioritise through routes and school runs, and the worst roads are being tackled first.

"This, of course, takes time – so we are asking people to be patient because there will be some roads that they won't get to for another month or so."

Police in 120mph chase after driver

AN UNMARKED police car recorded speeds of up to 120mph as it tried to keep up with a motorist.

Elliott Keep, 23, of Downs Road, Gravesend, was recently sentenced at Faversham and Sittingbourne Magistrates Court for speeding offences.

On October 13, 2009, Keep drove a black VW Golf above the 70mph speed limit on the M2 near Boxley.

He pleaded guilty by post and was disqualified from driving for 56 days, fined £280 and ordered to pay £50 costs.

Schools call for an end to 'unfair' exam targets

National Challenge is 'pulling us apart' say teachers

By **MARLIKE COX**

HEADTEACHERS are pushing the Government to scrap the National Challenge in a bid to stop the "cycle of destruction" caused by unfair targets.

The campaign, led by Andrew Somers, principle of Hartsdown Technology College in Margate, is being backed by education chiefs at Kent County Council who claim teachers, pupils and governing bodies are being put under too much stress.

A letter has been sent by Mr Somers to new education secretary Michael Gove calling for the abolition of the system, which was introduced under the Labour government in 2008.

He said: "The scheme is causing a cycle of destruction – if it's not changed we'll start to see schools just falling apart."

Under the National Challenge, every secondary school in the country must get 30 per cent of its pupils to achieve five A* to C grade GCSE passes, including in maths and English.

If the school is unable to meet this target it is labelled 'failing' and faces being closed; merged to form a federation; or be turned into an academy – unless it improves.

Despite the number of so-called failing schools dropping across the UK, for Kent, where the selective system is still in place, there are still 22 unable to meet the target.

Mr Somers said: "The top 30 per cent of children go to grammar schools, whereas non-selective schools take on mixed abilities – children with educational needs, and even pupils where English is their second language.

"They are expected to meet the same targets as schools with more than 90 per cent of their students getting A* to C GCSE grades."

Mr Somers said the Government now has the opportunity to scrap the National Challenge.

Contextual

"All subjects should be assessed, including vocational subjects, which some pupils are better at," he said. "We use Contextual Value Added which measures the progress of children throughout school. This is a fairer system.

"Based on CVA we are one of the most improved schools in the country, and yet the National Challenge calls us failing.

"If parents see this they won't want to send their children here; which means pupil numbers drop and we don't get as much funding."

Secondary teachers at schools deemed failing across the county have admitted to the stress they are under to keep GCSE grades up.

One, who asked not to be named, said: "When children improve it's almost like that's not important. It's only getting that 30

per cent figure that seems to matter now."

Last year, former education secretary Ed Balls warned KCC about the possibility of the Government taking action after it was named as the authority with the most failing schools.

He claimed that although he understood the difficulties of the National Challenge for non-selective schools in selective areas, the Government would intervene if the 22 failing institutions did not meet targets.

Cllr Jenny Whittle, deputy cabinet member for children, families and education at KCC, said the authority was aggrieved the National Challenge did not take into account the achievements that had been reached by young people in many of the schools.

"To give just one example, a secondary school in Thanet doubled the percentage of pupils gaining at least five good GCSEs, including English and maths combined, than had been predicted when they entered the school, yet they were threatened with closure because they still fell short of the target."

Cllr Whittle said the council supported changes to the National Challenge system.

Mr Somers said headteachers from other schools, including grammars, also supported the campaign.

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New Zealand colony had been due to come home

Rare bees die in hibernation

AN ELABORATE plan to reintroduce a rare bumblebee into the wilds of Kent has gone seriously wrong after the entire stock died in New Zealand during hibernation.



EX-PATRIOT: The rare short-haired bumblebee from Britain now clings to life down under in New Zealand

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

The people behind the project admit it is a setback, but plan to start all over again in the autumn.

The RSPB is one of the organisations involved in the plan to bring the native bee back to the county from across the world.

A spokesman said: "The short-haired bumblebee reintroduction to the RSPB Dungeness Reserve has been postponed until summer, 2011.

"A small number were due to be released on Friday, but sadly they did not survive hibernation in New Zealand.

"Another expedition to New Zealand will take place this November to collect queens to rear and the next generation will be returned to the UK the same time next year for release.

"Over the next six months work will concentrate on creating more habitat for bumblebees, perfecting the rearing technique in New Zealand and raising the profile of the importance of bumblebees with communities.

"This is a long-term project and we hope for many future releases.

"The project has had a great success working with farmers, land owners and conservation groups in creating habitat for bumblebees.



Across the release area over 550 hectares of land has been created which is suitable, not only for bumblebees, but also for nesting birds, mammals and other invertebrates."

In January we reported how queens in the project had started laying eggs.

The queens were being collected from the South Island and then reared in Christchurch. The international mission was to help tackle Britain's pollination crisis.

Natural England is the Government's countryside agency behind the idea to move the bees across the globe.

The short-haired bumblebee became extinct in the UK 10 years ago. In the late 19th century, some were taken on board refrigerated lamb ships that eventually docked in New Zealand, where they have clung on to a bare existence and the country is now one of the few areas of the world where they can be found. They were used to pollinate crops for cattle.

Bringing them back to Kent is now vital to tackle the slump in bumblebees and other pollinating insects in recent years.

The project to repatriate them is headed by Natural England and supported by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, RSPB and conservation organisation Hymettus.

Pounds don't keep slimmers on the straight and narrow

A WEIGHT loss scheme offering cash to obese people as an incentive to lose weight has pushed 100 people to shed nearly two stone each.

But while some were successful in the programme, two thirds of the 402 volunteers who took part in the pilot failed to reach their target weight, despite being offered up to £425 as an incentive.

Rewards depended on the amount of weight lost, ranging from £70 for dropping 15lbs to £425 for losing 50lbs and keeping it off for six months.

Among the 100 people who successfully completed the Pounds for Pounds trial, which was launched and funded by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent in 2009, the average weight loss was 25lb.

But with only a quarter of participants staying in the programme for a year, health chiefs have questioned whether the approach is sustainable enough to tackle the UK's obesity crisis.

An independent evaluation of the results by Dr Clare Relton at the University of Sheffield found that although incentive-driven weight



GUTBUSTING: Pounds for Pounds

loss schemes work for some, the high drop-out rate shows more needs to be done to understand the true effects of such programmes.

Claire Martin, acting assistant director of public health for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, said the high drop-out rates made it difficult to interpret the results.

"In these challenging times we need to make tough financial decisions and make sure we invest money wisely, these findings are just part of the overall picture," she said. "In conclusion, there were high drop-out rates

and so it is difficult to interpret the results to show how successful this would be across our population."

She added: "Clearly it works for some, but more research needs to be undertaken to understand the true effect of incentive on weight loss."

Other weight loss programmes – without the cash rewards – are also being evaluated.

Last month, the National Institute of Clinical Evidence's (NICE) citizens' council debated whether incentives were an effective way of helping people lose weight or give up smoking.

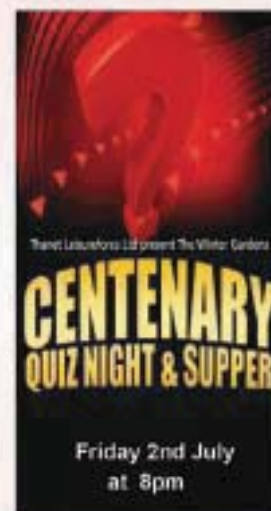
A spokesman at the Department of Health said any incentives used to change people's behaviour should be based on sound evidence.

In 2008, figures released by the Government showed £564 million was spent in Kent alone dealing with obese and overweight patients. By 2015, the problem is expected to cost taxpayers an extra £62m every year.

Figures showed that nationally, the total NHS cost of obesity and weight-related diseases in the UK is predicted to hit £22.9bn by 2050.



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Saturday 3rd July at 7.30pm

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WIN! a hot-air balloon flight with Spitfire Ale and Biggin Hill



YOU have the chance to take to the sky in the Spitfire hot-air balloon as Britain's oldest brewer Shepherd Neame marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain with its sponsorship of this year's Biggin Hill International Air Fair.

The air fair, to be held on the weekend of June 26-27, will feature displays by the legendary Spitfire and Hurricane in a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the men who took part in the air campaign of 1940.

It was in 1990 that Faversham-based brewer Shepherd Neame launched Spitfire to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Much like its namesake, the ale took off and now Shepherd Neame has teamed up with KOS Media to offer to take a competition winner and their guest up in the Spitfire hot-air balloon, courtesy of Kent Ballooning of Ashford.

Five runners-up will each receive a case of eight bottles of Spitfire ale.

The air show, now in its 47th year, attracts aviation fans from around the world and this year's Battle of Britain themed event will be no exception.

The Hurricanes and Spitfires will be joined by fellow legendary wartime aircraft, such as the Lancaster bomber and the American B17 Sally B.

There will also be displays by the Red Arrows, the RAF Falcon Parachute Display Team and a Royal Navy Lynx helicopter. Shepherd Neame, which

along with HISTORY, LBC and Breitling, is sponsoring the event, will be ensuring there is plenty of Spitfire ale to sample.

To stand a chance of winning the Spitfire balloon flight – to be taken after the air fair – simply answer this question:

Q) In what year did Shepherd Neame launch Spitfire ale?

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Hot-Air Balloon Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.

The closing date for entries is Friday, July 2, 2010.

No purchase necessary.

For our full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature, please write 'no literature' on your entry.

For more information on Shepherd Neame visit www.shepherd-neame.co.uk.

For more information on Spitfire ale in particular, visit www.spitfireale.co.uk.

For details on the air show visit www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk.

Duo cheated £1m from elderly victims

TWO men who conned elderly and vulnerable people out of more than £1 million in a series of deceptions have admitted fraud charges.

Moses Mead, 25, of Springhead Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, and Christopher James Latty, 38, of Victoria Street, Gillingham, were arrested in Cambridge by Kent Police on January 14.

Officers were hunting for the duo in connection with incidents that took place at various locations in Kent, London, Hertfordshire and Cambridge following a complex investigation led by detectives in West Kent and the Serious and Organised Crime Unit.

Trick

All of their victims were tricked into paying for costly and unnecessary building work.

The victims included:

- A man in his 60s from Bexleyheath who was tricked into handing over a total of £522,000
- An 82 year-old man from Medway who was tricked into handing over £230,000
- A 79 year-old woman from Plumstead who handed over £14,500 for works to her roof timbers that were never replaced
- An 82 year-old woman from the Chatham area who handed over £9,275

At Maidstone Crown Court, Mead admitted conspiracy to commit fraud by misrepresentation in connection with incidents that took



FRAUDSTERS: (l-r) Moses Mead and James Latty pleaded guilty

place between 2007 and 2010.

Mead would contact his victims up to three years after first doing work on their home, claiming to work for a firm dealing with other companies in liquidation.

He would claim that while clearing out the liquidated firm's offices he had found a refund cheque made payable to the victim for being overcharged for the previous building work.

To release the cheque he required a percentage of the refund – often thousands of pounds. By using this trick Mead placed himself at the initial scene of the crime.

Latty pleaded guilty to two individual charges of conspiracy to commit fraud by misrepresentation.

This relates incidents where a man in his 60s lost £522,000 and an 82-year-old man lost £230,000.

Latty was the courier dispatched by Mead to collect cash, often in carrier bags containing tens of thousands of pounds withdrawn from bank accounts.

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The company had a family feel with personal attention and service."

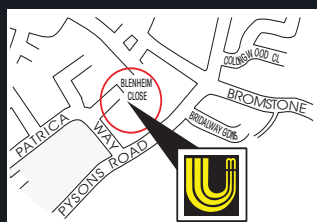
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Bum note for festival-goers

A MUSIC festival set in the grounds of a country park has been cancelled due to "unforeseen circumstances".

Gocstock was due to be staged in Eridge Park in Eridge Green, on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells, from June 18-20.

But organiser Kit Kaboodle, a London-based events management company, this week announced Gocstock had been cancelled less than two weeks before it was due to go ahead.

The promoter was vague about

the reasons for the cancellation, but released a statement saying: "Gocstock has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control."

The cancellation came just days after another Kent music festival was called off a week before it was due to be staged.

Organisers of Sellindge Music Festival blamed a change in the way Pay Pal distributes money paid for tickets through online sites for creating a funding shortfall, but have vowed to return next year.

Exhibition inspired by one family's time spent at the crease

By STEVE KNIGHT

REPORTS, photographs and memorabilia from one of Kent's oldest cricket clubs have gone on display for the first time.

This year Frindsbury Cricket Club, near Strood, celebrates its 125th anniversary, and to mark the occasion the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre is hosting a celebratory exhibition.

Visitors are welcome to find out all about the team – which played its first match on May 9, 1886.

The exhibition, which runs until August 3, was the brainchild of Frindsbury resident Tessa Towner, who is also chairwoman of the Friends of Medway Archives.

She said she was inspired to find out more about the club when she discovered how many members of her own family had been involved with it throughout its history.

"I own a team photograph that was taken in about 1908, and it's been in my family for as long as I can remember," said Mrs Towner.

"My grandfather is in the picture and I later found out that four other sons of my great grandfather also played for Frindsbury.

"My youngest grandson has just started playing for their under-11s side too.

"I was born and bred in the village and I wanted to find out more about the club because of my love for Frindsbury.



MATCH DAY: Tessa Towner's grandfather John Walter (umpire on the left) lines up for a team photo with members of the Frindsbury Cricket Club

"I discovered a lot of local connections and names that still pop up in the area today."

Due to a lack of other nearby teams at the time of Frindsbury's formation the first match in its history was contested between the club's single men and its married men.

The single men won by 52 runs after the married men found themselves all out for just 15.

As well as historic scorecards and photographs, the exhibition also features information on some of Frindsbury's most successful players.

These include Jim Stebbins, who in 1902 claimed a then-world record eight wickets from eight balls, and future Kent representatives Charlie Wright (1920s) and John Dye (1960s).



TOTAL: Scorecard of the first match

Mrs Towner revealed how the club was formed by several men, including the local vicar the Reverend William Hanson Jackson and churchwarden Joseph Skilton – seven of whose sons also went onto play for the team.

She added: "It's strange because although the club has been around for 125 years you don't really hear a lot about it in the village any more."

"The team's had its ups and downs, but it's still going strong today."

The exhibition is at the Clock Tower building, behind the site of the former Strood Civic Centre, and is open every day except Wednesdays and Sundays.

Admission is free. Call 01634 332714 for more information.

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By **GARY WRIGHT**
in Rauma, Finland

THE LARGEST ferry ever built for the cross-Channel Dover-Calais route was launched this week in Finland.

The 49,000-tonne Spirit of Britain slipped into the waters of the Baltic at the port of Rauma on Tuesday to applause from assembled dignitaries including the top staff of operator P&O and builder STX.

The vessel undergoes sea trials in November, after interior fitting is completed, and is due on the cross Channel route in January, 2011.

As she cleared the shipyards work started on her sister vessel – the Spirit of France – with a time-honoured ceremony in which a coin is embedded in the hull to bring good luck as construction commences.

The total cost of building both ships will be 360 million euros.

Captain David Miller is set to assume the role of senior master of the new ship that has space for 1,000 cars.

He was there for the launch and has been active throughout the design stages ensuring the giant ferry is perfect for her role.

The Spirit of Britain is 213m-long and 31m-wide, the largest size which allow her to manoeuvre in the confines of the Port of Dover without the use of tugs.

She will be able to carry twice the tonnage of smaller existing ferries without using any more fuel.

Magnitude

Capt Miller's career in Dover began in 1980, aboard the Spirit of Free Enterprise.

He said: "The Enterprise was brand new as she'd only been launched a few months earlier, and at 7,951 gross registered tonnes was so huge as to represent a new generation of ferry."

"Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that 30 years later I'd be senior master for a new build of the magnitude of Spirit of Britain. It's a great privilege."

He was clearly emotional as the dry dock was flooded to float the new giant of which he will take control in January.

"This is a magnificent vessel. I feel like a child waiting for Christmas."

The ship was constructed according to the latest principles of marine engineering in what is known as 'block construction'.

This requires pre-fabricated hull sections to be fitted with key components such as cabling and pipework.

They are then moved by tractor from their construction halls to be lifted into place in the dry dock where the ship is assembled. Each block weighs around 325 tonnes.

As the construction halls are protected from the weather progress has not been interrupted other than for painting, despite the winter of 2009-10 being particularly severe in Finland.

Spirit of Britain launches new era of Channel crossing

ALL ABOARD: The first of two giant P&O ferries costing 360 million euros floated this week



Picture: NOKIA 36



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You'll have plenty of time to browse and take advice from the knowledgeable staff whilst onboard. There are some great beauty offers all at permanently low prices from Benefit, Body Shop, Clarins, YSL, Clinique and Estee Lauder. Don't forget to look at the amazing value, designer sunglasses, watches, jewellery, leather goods and handbags from Guess, Radley, Nicca and Fiorelli.

Take advantage of the bulk buy service and fill the boot with beer, wine or spirits and save up to 30% off the equivalent UK prices. If you cut out the voucher below you can save even more money. At these prices you can't afford not to go! Plus, you pay in pounds so no need to worry about the exchange rate.

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Dover to Calais CAR FULL DAY TRIP Car and up to 9 people	Sunday - Friday		Saturday	
Depart and return before midnight the same day	Web	Phone	Web	Phone
Travel 12th June to 30th June - Prices from	£23	£28	£30	£35
Travel 1st July to 16th July - Prices from	£23	£28	£33	£38

Dover to Calais CAR AFTERNOON DAY TRIP Car and up to 9 people	Any Day	Any Day	Any Day	Any Day
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Battling back into world of work

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

WOUNDED soldiers, the blind and people with other physical and mental disabilities may be forgiven for thinking the working world has run out of vacancies.

They assume no employer in their right mind would risk giving them a job, especially when there are so many other candidates available who could surely perform tasks with far more speed and efficiency.

But try telling that to staff at the Aylesford-based Royal British Legion Industries, which employs hundreds of disabled workers – not all of whom are ex-servicemen and women – and helps thousands more gain work across the country. It also provides sheltered housing for veterans as well as a supported living scheme for the ex-service community.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the RBLI," said Steve Hammond, 52, who suffered knee injuries fighting in the Falklands but is now employed as team leader of the charity's manufacturing division.

"They got me a house, sorted me and my family out and got me a job. Working here is pay-back time as far as I'm concerned."

Despite sharing the poppy symbol, the RBLI was actually formed two years before the Royal British Legion, in 1919, albeit under a different name. It does not benefit from grants or donations and relies on the money it makes from selling road signs, pal-



TRAIN OF THOUGHT: Steve Osborne, left, with blind model-maker Steve Acland; and above, pallet makers in the workshop



lets, display models and other products created by its army of mostly disabled workers.

And such is the quality of the service provided that companies such as Network Rail – which uses RBLI as its number one sign maker – is only too happy to support the charity, which last year earned £18.5 million, including an £800,000 profit.

"We employ people who have the most serious forms of disability," said manufacturing director Steve Osborne. "From limbless people and those who have been paralysed to others who have mental health conditions, we support them all."

"We have a sheet-metal worker with only one arm and another man who is registered legally blind but can construct large-scale KNex point-of-sale displays in no time at all."

"We even deliberately decide against using certain machines for some tasks so we can employ more people to do them instead."

"But like any employer, we only give jobs to those who are best suited to a particular role

and would benefit from doing it the most. The vast majority of people we employ would otherwise be sitting at home watching daytime TV."

The RBLI sign is clearly visible to motorists passing junction five on the M20, but most will be oblivious to the sterling work that goes on within the confines of the Royal British Legion Village, which is also home to the Poppy Appeal headquarters.

In addition to the manufacturing side, the charity also owns and manages 81 on-site houses and bungalows as well as a range of other housing options. These include sheltered accommodation enabling residents to undergo therapy and rehabilitation, an assisted living scheme for elderly veterans, and even a residential nursing home.

Two of these schemes – Gavin Astor House and Queen Elizabeth Court – were both awarded three stars for excellence from the Care Quality Commission while the RBLI itself picked up the 2009 Kent Excellence in Business Award for customer service and

commitment, and has been short-listed again this year. Last year it also received a matrix Excellence Award for information, advice and guidance. In addition, more than 16,000 people with a disability or long-term health problem have been helped to find a job by a dedicated team of workers – some of whom are also disabled – in the charity's employment solutions division.

"If you want to distill everything we do into one single purpose, then it would be that we help improve people's lives," said operations director David Jessop.

"We're all about giving people freedom of choice, equality and independence and we feel if we can do that then we've certainly achieved something worthwhile."

"We all get a buzz out of working here because it gives us a real sense that we are helping people help their own lives."

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Cameron cuts claim is a ploy

I listened with apprehension when Prime Minister David Cameron said: "We're all in this together."

I couldn't help having a quiet laugh. At 83 years of age, I've heard such statements from politicians before, especially Tories, about our future.

The working-class will be the main losers, while our rulers will prosper as ever, with pathetic token cuts to show they are also "suffering" while still enjoying the good life. All the cuts will hit the lower classes in all aspects.

This is nothing but a ploy to try to put the finishing touches to the Thatcherism of the 1980s, to put the workers in their place, and the final undermining of their only defence, the unions.

We were in a far worse position after World War Two, being almost bankrupt.

We borrowed money from the USA and rebuilt our nation under Clement Attlee, a man of the people, with a better lifestyle for the many, including our NHS, the envy of the world.

Life was improving for all. Income for the ruling class was kept in check under the old Labour government, which in turn allowed the many to inherit a better life.

And on top of that, it was Labour that finally repaid our debt to the USA.

Once again we have ignored history's warning not to allow this pathetic infiltration of Tory policies into our lives – this time, sadly, aided and abetted by the Liberals – which will increase the wellbeing of only the better off at the expense of the many.

As a Liberal Democrat myself, they have lost my vote and my membership. The party that opposed the Tories locally so vigorously is now in bed with them in government.

I feel betrayed that they have joined them, contrary to their – and members' – aims.

Len Knight, Rainham

We don't need LSD flashback

I am writing in response to last week's Opinion, headlined *Altering the Mindset*, by medical anthropology student Dave King of the University of Kent.

He argues that psychedelic drugs such as LSD are of more clinical benefit than the adverse publicity they have attracted since the 1960s would allow.

A visit to a medical conference in California appears to have provided the background for this student's support for such drugs.

As a counter-balance to such an enthusiastic defence of psychedelics, I would like to draw the public's attention to the abuses to which these drugs were put, not just by the public at large as a recreational drug but, more importantly, by the medical and pharmaceutical professions over the last 50 years.

Two important cases in the 1950s exposed by the media and as a

OPINION: CONCERN FOR VULNERABLE

Porchlight's **MIKE BARRETT** warns that relying solely on volunteers to help the homeless is likely to undo all the hard work achieved in recent years

GIVEN the new coalition government is only a few weeks old it strikes me that we are in for an incredibly destabilising period in the charitable sector.

There is a huge gap in understanding about how this sector works and how it has developed over the last 20 years.

The delivery of services to vulnerable people, in particular those who are not owed any protection by the statutory services, is in the main delivered by organisations like Porchlight.

We have quite correctly been forced, through the introduction of regulated contracts, to devise and implement systems which measure the success (or otherwise) of the services offered.

In short, we are duty-bound to improve vulnerable people's lives in order that they move on and find a level of independence that is sustainable and allows reintegration into society that both benefits the individual and the community in which they live.

The risk, in crude terms, is the withdrawal of a safety net that gets single homeless people off the streets and helps them stay off.

Organisations such as Porchlight (the safety net) provide a combination of housing and support with the ultimate aim of getting people into employment and/or training, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty, social isolation and homelessness.

The Government's opinion is that many of the services currently delivered by 'community organisations' could be delivered by volunteers.

This is true in cases where there is little need for full risk assessments, professional qualified and trained staff and where the objective would be to say, get people together over a cup of coffee, to chat and feel part of something. That may help to combat loneliness which befalls many an ex-homeless person. Indeed loneliness is one of the main causes of repeat homelessness, but is not widely recognised.

Maybe this is because we are all a little embarrassed about the term lonely and maybe it does not fall neatly into some funding eligibility criteria.

The fact that the coalition government has just

announced the first round of 'in year' cuts potentially sets the scene for what is going to be a literal fight for survival for some charities funded by government grants.

More importantly it is a matter of life and death for those of our fellow human beings sleeping on the streets and struggling with mental health, alcohol and drug problems or those leaving prison hoping to make a new start. Without support those individuals will surely be back in prison within a matter of months, if not weeks.

The Supporting People funding programme that enables this work to take place has been tested, reviewed and monitored over the last seven years and has been proven to save the public purse over £2 for every £1 spent.

The public sector recession that is about to start could undo all of the good work across the country by organisations like Porchlight.

That, in my view, would not only be sad but also extreme madness. The work we have been able to do since 1974 has thankfully changed dramatically. However, we are fearful that we may see a return to the days of mass soup kitchens and the issuing of blankets to the many not just the few. I'm not trying to insult the charitable

work of those who organise soup kitchens; my point is that homelessness is complex.

We have systems in place which pushes those without families and support networks further into a frightening, degrading and ultimately destructive world. One that needs effective, focused and well-funded interventions to keep on top of the problem.

If there was one message I would like to give our councils, both county and local, it's 'please don't throw the baby out with the bath water'.

Vulnerable people rely on these invaluable services and charities to deliver life-changing and to some, life-saving interventions.

So please let's not return to treating those in need as objects of charity, but allow them opportunity, dignity and choice to make a difference to themselves and to the communities in which they live.

See www.porchlight.org.uk for more details.

• **Mike Barrett is chief executive of Porchlight, a Kent-wide independent charity that works to support single, vulnerable homeless people or those at risk of homelessness.**



Lives transformed by Legion industry

TO MANY, Royal British Legion Industries may appear to be nothing more than an uninspiring collection of factory units and offices.

But step through the doors of any of those buildings and you are likely to come face-to-face with at least one person whose life has been transformed for the better by those in charge.

Perhaps it will be the one-armed sheet-metal worker, or the partially-sighted man who can construct huge K'Nex models. Or maybe the wheelchair-bound amputee who now works with other disabled people to help them find employment.

Whichever way you look at it, RBLI has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of people over the years, despite few in Kent being aware of its presence.

And what's perhaps even more impressive is that this fantastic charity is entirely self-funded through the efforts of its army of passionate workers, who are grateful for being given a chance when others refused.

Congratulations are in order for building up such a successful organisation and long may it continue.

Let's raise a glass to the Three Lions

AFTER what feels like an eternity, the 2010 Fifa World Cup is here at last.

And while Rio Ferdinand is out injured and questions about Wayne Rooney's temperament have come back to haunt him, you can be sure the nation will be united once more as our boys sporting the Three Lions resume their quest for glory.

That means good news for all Kent pubs planning to cash in on the tournament by putting their big screens to good use, which must surely be the majority of them.

The pub industry has suffered greatly in recent years, so here's hoping it can reap the benefits of what will hopefully be a memorable England campaign for all the right reasons.

result leading to legal action were: experimentation by the MoD at

Porton Down Chemical Weapons Establishment of LSD on young servicemen, in particular a World War Two veteran Royston Clarke; and experimentation by the CIA in the USA with Sergeant Stanley being awarded compensation for the side effects of being experimented on with this drug by the American military authorities.

The medical expert who gave evidence on the CIA abuse stated that "one milligram of LSD can produce a psychosis-like condition within a few hours".

Papers released in 1986 have shown that UK civilian doctors and professors were advising the MoD on LSD as far back as 1955 and passing civilian research material to them.

In 2002, a group litigation case was settled in the UK for patients who were prescribed this drug and given it in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s at psychiatric hospitals in the UK for comparatively minor complaints.

Many of these cases originally being highlighted and supported by former MP Ken Purchase.

These patients were given LSD

without warning, explanation or monitoring.

They suffered long-term side effects including hallucinations, flashbacks, depression and chronic paranoia.

Dave King states there are no toxic effects of LSD on the human body.

This drug, which is from the ergot-amine group, can cause severe muscle spasm in the uterus and this can result in an abortion.

One of the patients in the video on LSD abuse 'Acid Test' made by Channel 4 was a woman who recounted having a miscarriage as a result of being administered this drug and while experiencing the full effects of it on her mind.

LSD was never licensed by the UK Government. This drug was eventually banned from use by the medical profession in the UK in stages under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act, which received Royal Assent on May 27, 1971, with some sections on February 1, 1972, and others July 1, 1973.

Youth can be a positive asset when enthusiasm and drive are needed, but I would remind our young researcher that both life and profes-

sional experience and the ability to look back over the years can often be a safeguard and testimony to scientific abuses and future prevention over the years.

One person's scientific research project can lead to another's lifetime of suffering.

*Celia M Bibby BA(Hons)
Psychology with Criminal Law
(Kent University 1980-83) MSc
(Eng) University of Birmingham
Member of Academy of Experts
(Court Experts) Retired*

Food labelling needs honesty

Do we really know what's in our food? I am about to vote on whether shoppers have a right to clear and understandable information about the food we buy.

But food manufacturers have been lobbying hard to stop the use of 'traffic light labels', which use green, amber and red markings to show how much salt, fat and sugar is contained in processed foods such as ready meals.

The British Heart Foundation

and Which? both back the labels, and I've received many letters from people in the region asking me to support them.

I for one am very happy to give my name to the campaign for honest up-front labelling and hope the region's other MEPs will put aside party differences to join me in helping shoppers make an informed choice about what they're buying.

*Peter Skinner,
MEP for the South East,
Dartford*

Give teachers a break, please

In your front page story last week you stated that teachers receive three months' paid annual leave.

I would like to correct this. Teachers do not receive paid holidays.

Teachers are contracted to work 195 days a year and are paid for only those days.

Ian Parish, Eccles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BOWMAN

Carolyn and Craig Bowman celebrate the birth of their gorgeous son Joseph Craig Bowman on 27th May 2010 weighing 8lbs 6oz. Soon to be the next England captain.

JONES

Gemma and Arron of Woodnesborough are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Kathryn Elizabeth Jones, born on 27th May 2010 at QEQM Hospital. Our most beautiful and precious daughter.

REES

Chris and Emma and family would like to celebrate the birth of their daughter Lily on the 28th May 2010.

RUBY

Stanley John born on 10th May 2010 weighing 9lbs 6ozs, son to Dale and Gemma.

WEIR

Sarah and Richard celebrate the birth of their daughter Abigail Olivia Weir on 31st May 2010. Sister to Luke and Sophie.

WEST

Monty James born on the 23rd May weighing 6lbs 13oz to Graham and Julie West. First grandchild to Lynn and Barry West and Val and Daniel Marshall.

WHITE

Trevor and Laura White celebrate the birth of their daughter Tegan May White, 29 May 2010.

WILKIE

Jon and Madi are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby son Thomas Bryson Wilkie. Tommy was born at 1.34am on 1st May 2010 at Pembury Hospital and weighed 6lbs 7oz.

DEATHS

HOLLIDAY

Teresa Margaret Holliday, nee Parsons, passed away on the 27th May 2010 peacefully at home after a long fight against cancer, with family and friends by her side. Will be sadly missed by all. Lots of love from husband David and sons Lee and Shaun. Rest in Peace.

KENNARD

Lorraine Kennard died peacefully on the 30th May 2010. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on Wednesday 16th June 2010 at 11am.

MULCUCK nee LINKHORN

Jean Mulcuck passed away peacefully on 29th May 2010, aged 79. Widow of Aubrey, surviving sister of Jim and Hazel, niece, cousin

and sister-in law. Cremation at Vinters, Maidstone, at 11am on 15th June 2010. Flowers or donations to British Heart Foundation.

ROBINSON

Eric Robinson of St Marys Bay passed away on 4th June 2010. Enquires to Firmangers of New Romney. To live in the hearts of those left behind, is to live forever. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

THOROGOOD

Betty Thorogood aged 88 years, formerly of Queensway Newsagents, passed away peacefully after a long illness. Enquiries to Hogben and Sons Sheerness. Tel. 01795 580321.

WELLER

Margaret Weller of Hythe passed away on 21st May 2010. She will be sadly missed by all.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Republicanism is our best chance

Now we have a mandate for change under the coalition Government, I hope the chance to reform the House of Lords and the monarchy is not lost. There is a case for a republic.

There is the issue of power and politics, how the monarchy is the centre of our constitution and what it means for democracy.

Then there is the issue of princes and palaces, with their hangers-on, the accountability of the tax-funded royal household, what a hereditary head of state means and the problems with leaving such an important office to chance.

The debate raises serious questions about Britain and our constitution. Republicanism provides powerful and persuasive answers. Our constitution is fundamentally undemocratic. It has some features of a democracy – for example, we are permitted to elect just under half of our parliament – but at its core British politics concentrates unaccountable and unlimited power in the hands of a few.

How can we say we live in a democracy when the upper chamber is not elected and bishops sit in judgment just because they have an imaginary friend?

Some will tell you the monarchy is little more than a harmless decoration, a novelty left over from our past. It isn't. It is the basis and heart of our constitution. This is why the abolition of the monarchy is the most important of all political reforms.

We will need a new constitution, which could easily be dealt with under the reforms proposed by the coalition. This reform could provide a unique opportunity to deal with many of the problems in our political system.

We could also then address the issue of the monarchy itself, the question of what a hereditary head of state says about Britain, the way we leave the important choice of head of

state to chance and how lacking in accountability and transparency the royal household is. The country has a choice. We can leave things as they are and face the prospect of a politically active and unaccountable King Charles residing in wasteful palaces. We can continue to tolerate nepotism, corruption and abuse of privilege.

We can continue to tell our children they can never be good enough to be our head of state. Or we can opt for change.

This is our country and these decisions are ours to make. Do you want your children and grandchildren to still be living with the monarchy? Or will we make the decision to give Britain the democracy it deserves?

Some will tell you this is all too difficult, that we should accept the monarchy as fact and look to smaller, more achievable reforms.

I don't believe in surrendering to those who benefit the most from our undemocratic constitution. We mustn't abandon our responsibility to improve our country for future generations.

Anthony Sansum, Dover

Lords has become a laughing stock

Yet another Labour class warrior is to be carried off to the Lords. Amazing, isn't it, how the likes of John Prescott and others who have reviled the Lords for years can come up with excuses to join them.

Even more amazing is the fact that the Lords is willing to accept them. Prescott had an affair with his secretary and brawled with a voter. Quite what these people have to do to debar them from high office we have yet to find out.

You have to admire their brass neck, as their egos smother any vestige of shame.

The addition of placemen demeans the House of Lords and makes it a laughing stock.

Phil Granger, West Malling

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**KENT ADULT
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Loyd serves up scholarships

Celebrity chef helps uni sets up scheme to attract creative students

TALENTED artists and designers are being given the chance to stretch their creative skills with help from scholarships at the University for the Creative Arts.

Celebrity TV presenter Loyd Grossman, chairman of the board of governors, made a personal contribution to the scheme in a bid to attract high quality students to the university, which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester.

By **MARIJKE COX**

A number of the undergraduate scholarships – which range from £2,500 a year for up to three years to £1,000 for each year of a three-year course – are now available.

For postgraduates, three are available, including the Grossman scholarship which offers one talented student £5,000 a year for up to three years and the Design Research Scholarship,

which promotes outstanding research in a design subject, with £1,000 a year.

All the scholarships provide support for students from any background who show outstanding creative potential.

The scheme has been made possible through governors, alumni and friends of the university. Grossman made a significant personal contribution along with Professor Elaine Thomas, with eight named scholarships between them.

Prof Thomas said: "These scholarships will help attract the highest quality students to UCA."

"It will also enable us to open up our courses to talented and creative people who might otherwise miss out on a university education."

The new scholarships will be the first to have been made available since the university launched its Development Office in September, 2009.

Matthew Horton, head of development at UCA, said: "We are aiming to attract the every best students from the UK and beyond as well as providing financial support to students who need it most."

This year's deadline for applications is July 31.

Masterchef star Grossman has been chairman of the board of governors since



DESIGN COURSES: Loyd Grossman and Prof Elaine Thomas made personal contributions to the University for the Creative Arts

2008 when the institution was awarded its full university title.

The board is responsible for approving the strategic direction of the university, while planning future development.

Full details of the new scholarships are available at www.ucreative.ac.uk/scholarships.

Retail artists' window of opportunity

FOUR students have created models of window displays based on their own designs as part of a national creative competition.

The work formed part of the annual SkillVM competition, which looks to find the best retail artists in the UK.

The North West Kent College team of visual merchandisers, who create window and indoor displays, battled it out against others to show off their skills to the judges.

Each competitor had to design a window display to promote a futuristic pillow capable of recording dreams and playing them back.

The Kent students were split into two teams for the contest and are now awaiting the results to see if they will be creating their window display at full size at Marketing Week Live later this month.

Feel inspired at university art exhibition

AN EXHIBITION showcasing the work of student artists and designers is being opened to the public.

The degree show at the University of the Creative Arts will feature hundreds of creations from fine artists, designers and architects.

The free exhibition will run from Monday, June 14, to Thursday, June 17, between 10am and 5pm, at the New Dover Road campus in Canterbury.

Highlights include a collection of assorted underwear that has been built up since 2004 without the owner's knowledge.

Vice Chancellor Dianne Taylor said the exhibition was a great opportunity for the public to see the work done at the university.

"There will be a wide range of work on display that is guaranteed to inspire; no part of the campus has been left untouched as our students have transformed the white walls into pieces of art," she said.

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Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies at our Newbridge House Centre Chatham:

TRAINER

£17,834 pa

We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme for young people.

You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative. Experience in employer engagement, inductions and reviews would also be desirable.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (part time) 16hrs

£17,834pa(pro-rata)

This role is to provide high quality Key Skills for Life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information. Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels verbally and in writing. You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative. Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

We have the following vacancies at our Sittingbourne Centre:

YOUTH WORKER (part time) 18hrs

ESF Switched On Project

£7,946

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can motivate and engage young people between the ages of 14-16 on short motivational courses. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent.

PROJECT WORKER x 2 ESF TIE Project (full time)

£17,834 pa

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme with 14-19 year old young people. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent, and including the Young Offenders Institute in Medway.

These posts could work from our Sittingbourne or Chatham Centres

Closing date for all the above posts is 25 June 2010

Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, book keeping and in particular reception type duties. Travel and lunch expenses are paid.

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www.superior-care.co.uk



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HR@superior-care.co.uk

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Sue
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For an informal discussion about the post contact Shaun Bark on 01795 590795.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 selecting option three. Please quote reference number 672.

Closing date: 25 June 2010. Interview date: 6 July 2010.

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required for home to school transport (not owner drivers). Term time only. ALSO

Weekend Taxi Drivers

Help with Licence fees.
Clean Licence.
Tonbridge
Call Dan on 01732 355866

Stylists

required for busy and very friendly
High Street Salon in Tenterden.

Full or Part time positions required, must have at least 4 years Salon experience.

Competitive rates of pay plus commission.
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01580764067 or
07970309800
for more information or leave a message.

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- Training & development to NVQ Level 2
- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Must have own transport

London Care PLC is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older and disabled people living in their own homes.

Contact: Jak or Carl on 01634 828 928 or email amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk

London Care Plc is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

www.londoncare.co.uk

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

PANEL BEATER

A busy repair centre in Sandwich requires a fully qualified Panel Beater.

The successful applicant must provide a high standard of work in addition to being capable of working on their own initiative.

A minimum of three years jig experience is required and accreditation to PAS125 would be advantageous.

Good rate of pay. Immediate start.

Email CV to jobs@totalmotorcare.co.uk or telephone 01304 620999



Exhibition Stand Design, Manufacture, & Management based in Gravesend require

EXHIBITION CARPENTERS/JOINERS

Telephone (01474) 536360 for application form or e-mail CV to: mail@esm-uk.com

Theatre Royal Margate

P/T Duty Front of House Manager (£16K pro rata)

Youth Theatre workshop Leader (sessional)

For application packs please call 01843 293397, see our website www.theatroyalmargate.com or email admin@theatroyalmargate.com

Deadline for applications - Tuesday 6th July 2010
Interviews - w/c 19th July 2010
Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.



CERIUM

Financial Controller/Manager

We are a medium sized manufacturing company in the ophthalmic and optical sectors. We are seeking a person to take charge of our finance department who is ACA or ACCA qualified preferably with experience in all aspects of management and financial accounting. A background in Company Secretarial responsibilities together with regulatory/audit compliance and HR management would also be an advantage. We have offices in Australia, Holland, Singapore, U.S.A with our Head Office and Manufacturing base in Tenterden.

Applications in writing to:

Clive Sangster
Managing Director
Cerium Group Ltd
Cerium Technology Park,
Appledore Road,
Tenterden, Kent
TN30 7DE

Faversham Residential Home

Require
Weekend Domestic
9-2pm

General Assistant - Kitchen based
5-9pm (3 evenings per week on rota)

Care Assistant
35 hours on rota, experience preferred and

Relief Cook
For holidays and sickness cover 8.30-2.30pm
For further details please call 01795 532629

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ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre
Rochester, Kent

32.5 hours per week (term time only)

Grade D2 salary - £15,039-19,126 pro rata (£11,128-£14,153)

We are a well resourced, busy primary school located about 5 minutes from Junction 1 of the M2.

The Governors are seeking an organised, hard-working Administration Assistant to join our friendly office team. Good communication skills are essential, as well as knowledge of Microsoft Office applications, including Word and Excel. Experience of SIMS.net would be preferable, but training will be given.

The successful candidate will have a friendly manner and enjoy working as part of a team. Ideally, you will also be presentable, flexible, and have a sense of humour!

For more information and an application pack, please contact Susan Skinner (School Business Manager). Visits to the school are also welcome.

Tel: 01634 338040 Email: office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Any offer of appointment will be subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing Date: Monday 28th June 2010
Interview Dates: 1st July 2010/2nd July 2010
Start Date: 1st September 2010



Design Technology Technician

Kent Scheme 4

(£15,098 - £16,793 pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint a Design and Technology Technician to work 37 hours per week, term time only (40 weeks per year) in our Design and Technology Department.

The applicant should have good knowledge of CAD/CAM software and be confident in using and maintaining a range of workshop tools and machinery correctly and safely. Duties for this position will include the ordering of materials and parts for the department, keeping the workshop tidy and organised and supporting students in the manufacturing of their practical projects.

For further details and an application form telephone 01622 726683 or email office@opgs.org. Closing date for applications is 28th June 2010.

Oakwood Park Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with former employers and Enhanced CRB check.



SIR ROGER MANWOOD'S SCHOOL

SANDWICH, KENT CT13 9JX

High Performing Specialist College in Languages,
Maths and Computing

Tel: 01304 613286 Fax: 01304 615336

E-mail: head@srms.kent.sch.uk

Foundation Mixed Grammar School

Roll 914 including 275 in the Sixth Form and 50 boarders

CHEMISTRY TECHNICIAN

Required to work in a large and successful Science Department
A working knowledge of Chemistry to support KS3, 4 and A Level

Full-time post, including work during the school holidays.

Salary Kent Scheme Band 5 (£16,793 to £18,471)
depending on experience.

CLOSING DATE for Applications: Friday 25th June 2010

Please contact the School Office for an Information/Application Pack. Please note that the post is offered subject to receipt of two professional references.

Sir Roger Manwood's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure by the CRB and the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

...Jobs for Kent continued from page 30

SITE MANAGER

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre
Rochester, Kent
Hours negotiable (25 to 35 per week)
Grade: D2 Salary: £15,039-£19,126 per annum (pro rata)

We are a well resourced, busy primary school located about 5 minutes from Junction 1 of the M2.

The Governors are seeking a flexible, pro-active Site Manager. Duties include supervising a team of two assistant caretakers, security and general maintenance of the school buildings and grounds, cleaning and portering, as well as general ad hoc duties.

Basic hours per week are negotiable, but flexibility in times of absence and lettings (including occasional weekend work) is essential. Overtime is paid for additional hours. As a key holder, you would also be the first point of contact in the case of an emergency.

The successful candidate will have a flexible approach, basic DIY skills, and enjoy working in a school environment. Previous experience of working with children is an advantage.

For more information and an application pack, please contact Susan Skinner (School Business Manager). Visits to the school are also welcome.

Tel: 01634 338040 Email: office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Any offer of appointment will be subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing Date: Monday 28th June 2010
 Interview Dates: 1st July 2010/2nd July 2010
 Start Date: As soon as possible



Kent is bringing learning to life

Thinking of Returning to Teaching?

If you are a qualified teacher and thinking of resuming your career after a break, Kent County Council is running Return to Teaching courses during the 2010/11 academic year designed to enable you to make a successful return to the classroom. These will be held in convenient locations across the county and are open to both primary and secondary trained teachers.

Information events are scheduled for 29th June at Hillview School, Brionne Gardens, Tonbridge, TE9 2HE and Oakwood House, Maidstone ME16 8AE on 1st July, starting at 10:00. Interviews will be held at Oakwood House on 13th and 14th July.

For more information visit www.kent-teach.com or contact Rajmund Brent at KCC on 01622 203800 ext. 244.



www.kent-teach.com

PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE REQUIRES

FINANCE MANAGER

Kent Scheme 8 (£23,053 – £26,421) (Depending on experience)
 37 hours a week, full-time

Responsible to the Business Manager for the efficient organisation and operation of the finance office. You will manage all school accounting, purchasing and delivery procedures, banking and payroll functions ensuring efficient operation in line with best practice and according to agreed and documented procedures and in line with the school improvement plans and budget plans.

You will have at least three years' management experience in school finance, payroll and finance systems.

SENIOR FINANCE ASSISTANT

Kent Scheme 6 (Point £18,471 – £20,262)
 37 hours a week, full-time

To be a deputy to the Finance Manager with the key focus of the role being the efficient organisation and operation of the payroll functions in line with best practice and according to agreed and documented procedures.

You will have at least three years' experience of payroll and finance systems, be able to work in a pressurised environment.

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

Kent Scheme 3 (£14,099 – £15,984 pro rata per annum)
 37 hours a week, Term-time plus 10 days

Your main responsibilities will include:

- the preparation of practical lessons
- record-keeping
- ordering supplies
- displaying class work
- assisting the science teacher during lesson time, and where necessary, to help students with experiments.

You should be able to demonstrate a good basic knowledge and understanding of laboratory techniques and previous school experience would be an advantage.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Contact:
 Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
 Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
 T: 01303 277161 ext 2218
 Closing Date: Wednesday 23rd June 2010



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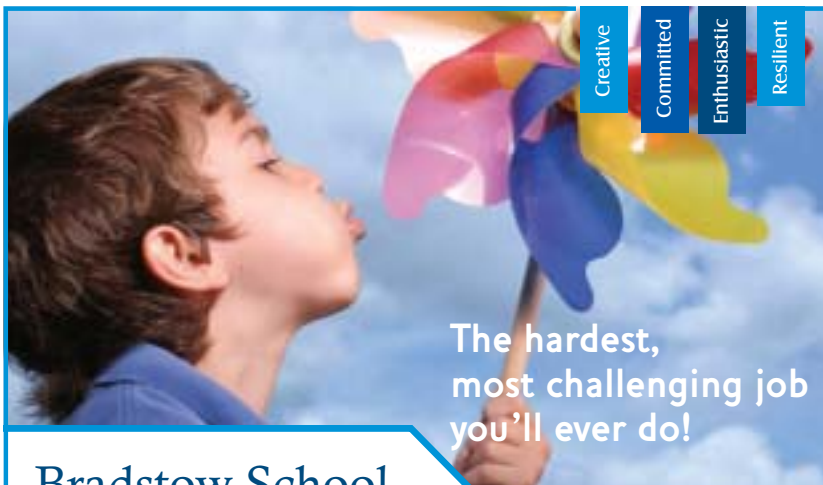
office@education-sense.com
www.education-sense.com



To advertise in this section



01303 817040



Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

DEPUTY HOUSE MANAGER - CHILDCARE

£22,985 - £25,472 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

Assisting the House Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential team, you'll arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that team on shift. Managing the administration of the team, you will take a lead role in the absence of the House Manager.

HOUSEPARENT - CHILDCARE

£19,621 - £22,221 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a students Keyworker, and some management responsibility.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - CHILDCARE

£13,874 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *
 & £11,166 plus 10% per annum - 33 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *
 & £4,994 - 15 hours per week, (weekends only) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students from Classrooms to Childcare Teams, afternoons and evenings during the week and late or early shifts each weekend.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 18th June 2010.

Successful candidates will need to apply for an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

All shortlisted candidates will be expected to visit the school prior to interview.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

£10,079 plus 10% per annum - 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS - EDUCATION

The successful applicants to the following two LSA roles will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group:

TEAM SUPPORT WORKER - EDUCATION

£12,689 per annum - 37.5 hours per week, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (from Childcare Teams into Classrooms) Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

£10,320 per annum - 34 hours per week, 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. (based in Classrooms only) Mon-Fri - Term time only

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk



The smart way to find your next job **JobsforKent.co.uk**



SIR ROGER MANWOOD'S SCHOOL SANDWICH, KENT CT13 9JX

High Performing Specialist College in Languages,
Maths and Computing

Tel: 01304 613286 Fax: 01304 615336

E-mail: head@srms.kent.sch.uk

Foundation Mixed Grammar School

Roll 914 including 275 in the Sixth Form and 50 boarders

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TEACHER/SUPPORT

An opportunity has arisen for an individual with experience to work with academically able students with Special Educational Needs at this very successful co-educational grammar school.

The role requires the successful candidate to work with, and tutor, individuals or groups of students, with needs particularly associated with specific learning difficulties/dyslexia and/or social communication difficulties. Whilst working hours are relatively flexible, there is an expected demand of approximately 12 hours per week and it may be necessary to schedule some sessions before, during or after-school.

Salary according to qualifications and experience.

CLOSING DATE for Applications: Friday 2nd July 2010
Please contact the School Office for an Information/Application Pack. Please note that the post is offered subject to receipt of two professional references.

Sir Roger Manwood's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure by the CRB and the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Teachers Needed Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

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Accountancy

FINANCE MANAGER

Folkestone

Salary: £23,053 - £26,421
Closing Date: Wednesday 23rd June 2010

To apply/more information:

Pent Vally Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Email samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

SENIOR FINANCE ASSISTANT

Folkestone

Salary: £18,471 - £20,262
Closing Date: Wednesday 23rd June 2010

SENIOR FINANCE ASSISTANT

Kent Scheme 6 (Point £18,471 - £20,262) 37 hours a week, full-time

To be a deputy to the Finance Manager with the key focus of the role being the efficient organisation and operation of the payroll functions in line with best practice and according to agreed and documented procedures. You will have at least three years' experience of payroll and finance systems, be able to work in a pressurised environment. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Contact: Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED. Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk T: 01303 277161 ext 2218.

To apply/more information:

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218

Email samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

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To apply/more information:
Drakes Plumbing Supplies Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 559915
Email mail@drakes.biz

Personal Assistant

Whitstable

Salary: IR0 £20,000

To apply/more information:

Superior Care

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Email HR@superior-care.co.uk

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Teacher of Physical Education

Aylesford

Salary: MPS

Closing Date: 24/06/2010

Aylesford School - Sports

College Roll 860 11 - 18 Mixed

Foundation Secondary School

Teacher of Physical Education

Main Scale Aylesford School -

Sports College is an innovative

forward looking Specialist

Sports College. We have a

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of everything we do. At

Aylesford School - Sports

College we can offer you: -

* A brand new school.

Outstanding new facilities in all

areas. * NQT/ New staff

induction package that is

second to none. * A highly

regarded CPD programme with

personal professional pathways.

* A buzzing and vibrant staff

who are friendly and keen to

help one another. * A forward

looking curriculum with

individualised pathways for

students. We are looking for a

committed professional who:-

* Can motivate students through

the curriculum. * Has the desire

to make the difference. * Is

focussed on developing their

career further. The School is

committed to safeguarding and

promoting the welfare of

children. For an application pack

please contact Miss Jill

McKenna on 01622 717341 ext

204 or email your request to

[jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.s](mailto:jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk)



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resuming your career after a break, Kent County Council is running Return to Teaching courses during the 2010/11 academic year designed to enable you to make a successful return to the classroom. These will be held in convenient locations across the county and are open to both primary and secondary trained teachers. Information events are scheduled for 29th June at Hillview School, Brionne Gardens, Tonbridge, TE9 2HE and Oakwood House, Maidstone ME16 8AE on 1st July, starting at 10:00. Interviews will be held at Oakwood House on 13th and 14th July. For more information visit www.kent-teach.com or contact Rajmund Brent at KCC on 01622 203800 ext. 244.

To apply/more information: Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 203800
Email rajmund.brent@kent.gov.uk

Teaching Assistant

Aylesford
Salary: Kent Scheme 3
Closing Date: 29th June 2010
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Design Technology Technician

Maidstone
Salary: £15,098 - £16,793 pro rata
Closing Date: 28th June 2010
To apply/more information: Oakwood Park Grammar School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 726683
Email office@opgs.org

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Technician - Plant and HGV

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 12 noon on **To apply/more information:** South Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: S2193
Tel: 01303 858373
Email humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

Production Technician

Ashford
Salary: £7.00 per hour
Peli Hardigg UK Ltd manufacture various products using injection and roto moulded cases and custom foam fabrication. Many customers are high profile and attention to detail and excellent finish is essential. Duties require manual skills in the areas of production and foam fabrication. The assembly and installation of foam liners. The ability to work to and inspect against engineering design drawings. Good, safe and confident operation of factory equipment including band saws and hot air guns. Reliable attendance and punctuality is essential. Pay - £7.00 per hour + benefits. All applications to:- Hardigg UK Ltd Mrs H. Edwards Unit 4 Brookfield Leacon Road, Ashford, Kent. TW23 4TU.

To apply/more information: Hardigg UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

Licensed Security Guard

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Licensed Security Guard required for 5 star holiday Park. Immediate start. Seasonal position. Good rate of pay. Accommodation available if required. Polite and presentable manner. Please send CV to Jane Stacey, The Foxhunter Park, Monkton, Kent CT12 4JG jane@thefoxhunterpark.co.uk

To apply/more information: Fox Hunter Park
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jane@thefoxhunterpark.co.uk

SITE MANAGER

Rochester
Salary: £15,039-£19,126 per annum (pro rata)
Closing Date: Monday 28th June 2010
To apply/more information: Hoo St Werburgh Primary School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 338040
Email office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Insurance, Banking, Finance

Experienced Collection Agents

Kent
Salary: TBA
We are a large progressive family run business with over 100 years experience in the home collected credit industry. WANTED Experienced agents currently working in home collected credit, with the ability to build their own rounds. We offer the very best rates of pay, up to twice the amount that our competitors pay. For an Informal Confidential chat please contact Craig Bradshaw Southern General Manager Mobile: 07701 099837 Office: 01708 804923

To apply/more information: Short Term Finance
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01708 804923
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Stylists

Tenterden
Salary: TBA
Stylists required for busy and very friendly High Street salon in Tenterden. Full or Part time positions required, must have at least 4 years Salon experience. Competitive rates of pay plus commission. Please ring 01580764067 or 07970309800 for more information or leave a message.

To apply/more information: Pizzazz Hairdressing Salon
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01580764067
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Drivers and Child Supervisors

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Drivers & Child Supervisors required for home to school transport (not owner drivers). Term time only. ALSO Weekend Taxi Drivers Help with Licence fees. Clean Licence. Tonbridge Call Dan on 01732 355866

To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Weekend Taxi Drivers

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Drivers & Child Supervisors required for home to school transport (not owner drivers). Term time only. ALSO Weekend Taxi Drivers Help with Licence fees. Clean Licence. Tonbridge Call Dan on 01732 355866.

To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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01303 817040

PANEL BEATER

Sandwich
Salary: TBA
PANEL BEATER A busy repair centre in Sandwich requires a fully qualified Panel Beater. The successful applicant must provide a high standard of work in addition to being capable of working on their own initiative. A minimum of three years jlg experience is required and accreditation to PAS125 would be advantageous. Good rate of pay. Immediate start Email CV to jobs@totalmotorcare.co.uk or telephone 01304 620999.

To apply/more information: Total Motor Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 620999
Email jobs@totalmotorcare.co.uk

EXPERIENCED TRUCK TECHNICIAN

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Haynes Trucks
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07967 010053
Email m.curtis@haynesgrp.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Massage Therapist

Canterbury
Salary: 9-18 k per annum + bonuses
Closing Date: 15/06/10
FULLTIME PART-TIME/JOBSHARE Position available at Kent's leading Spinal Health Care Practice in Canterbury. We are looking for hardworking and motivated massage therapists who are: Enthusiastic and committed to helping people Organised and efficient A Team Player Driven to attain self improvement and success Must have basic Massage qualification further in house training given Basic computer skills preferable No Clinical experience necessary as full training will be given NEW GRADUATES WELCOME! Apply for this position if you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing Earning ability from £8000 - £22000 per annum if you think you have what we are looking for, please apply in writing with your C.V. to Recruitment Manager, The Wellness Practice LTD Blean

Canterbury Kent CT2 9EB
To apply/more information: Practice Manager
Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury
Salary: 12,500-26,500 depending on skills
Closing Date: 15/06/10
To apply/more information: Dr. Tracy Harley
Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02
Tel: 01227 789977
Email drtracyharley@googlemail.com

COMMUNITY CARERS

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
MERIDIAN CARE Require COMMUNITY CARERS in Canterbury Full paid training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement for NVQ qualified. Mileage allowance and full support given for both new and experienced carers. Own transport essential. For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300
Alternatively email us at MeridianCbury@aol.com

To apply/more information: Meridian Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 712300
Email MeridianCbury@aol.com

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Assistant Manager. Required For Elderly Residential Care Home in Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 Subject to satisfactory CRB Check.

To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Relief Care Worker/ Escort

Dartford
Salary: £6.61 per hour
Relief Care Worker/Escort - Day Centre, Northfleet This position offers cover for our day centre workers/escorts. We offer a service Monday - Saturday for clients with dementia. Days and hours would be variable. The rate of pay is £6.61 per hour. If you are a caring person with a positive approach to the needs of people with dementia, please call Jackie on 01474 533990 for an application pack.

To apply/more information: Alzheimers & Dementia Support
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email adminadss@btconnect.com

Activities Coordinator

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
The Hollies Care Home are currently recruiting for: Activities Coordinator Should be able to communicate well and arrange activities, games, reminiscence and outings for elders with dementia. Pay rate £7 p/h negotiable. Contact: John 01892 535346 between 9 am - 5 pm on weekdays.

To apply/more information: Regal Care Homes
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 535346
Email mourad.cader@regalcarehomes.com

Weekend Domestic

Faversham
Salary: TBA
Faversham Residential Home Require Weekend Domestic 9-2pm For further details please call 01795 532629.

To apply/more information: Camalea Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 532629
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

General Assistant - Kitchen based

Faversham
Salary: TBA
Faversham Residential Home Require General Assistant - Kitchen based 5-9pm (3 evenings per week on rota) For further details please call 01795 532629

To apply/more information: Camalea Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 532629
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Care Assistant

Faversham
Salary: TBA
Faversham Residential Home Require Care Assistant 35 hours on rota, experience preferred. For further details please call 01795 532629

To apply/more information: Camalea Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 532629
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Relief Cook

Faversham
Salary: TBA
Faversham Residential Home Require Relief Cook For holidays and sickness cover 8.30-2.30pm. For further details please call 01795 532629.

To apply/more information: Camalea Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 532629
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Senior Carer

Rochester
Salary: TBA
Experienced Senior Carer required for part time duties. Sat and Sun 7.30am-5.30pm each week To work at our pleasant EMI Home. Preferably holding an NVQ 3 or working towards. Contact Toni Lawrence 01634 724113.

To apply/more information: Ampersand House Residential Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 724113
Email antoinetelawrence@rockmail.com

Community Carers

Whitstable
Salary: £7.00 per hour
Community Carers From £7.00 per hour Comprehensive training, free uniform & 28 days holiday Superior Care provides care to elderly clients living in their own homes, in and around Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable. Due to continuous growth, we urgently require new candidates to join our team. Experience is not essential; a full induction and training will be provided. Successful candidates will offer a caring and compassionate demeanour, and be flexible in their working hours. In return, we will offer competitive rates of pay, the opportunity to join a close knit team, and various benefits such as paid holiday and ongoing training. Full time hours or evening/weekend top-up work is available.

To apply/more information: Superior Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 357555
Email whitstable@superior-care.co.uk

Trained Nurses

Folkestone
Salary: £12.00 per hour
Trained Nurses From £12.00 per hour Free clinical development training, uniform & 28 days holiday. We have an urgent requirement for trained nurses to accept ad-hoc and longer term nursing home assignments in South Kent. You must have a valid PIN registration and access to your own transport. In return, we will offer competitive rates of pay including enhanced rates for specialist placements and free clinical development training. Full time or top up shifts are currently available. For an informal discussion, please contact: Mira 01303 221666 folkestone@superior-care.co.uk

To apply/more information: Superior Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 221666
Email folkestone@superior-care.co.uk

Support Workers

Folkestone
Salary: £7.20 per hour
Support Workers From £7.20 per hour Free training, uniform & 28 days holiday Superior Care is working with local learning disabilities and mental health organisations in around Folkestone and Ashford. We urgently require support workers to join our team. You must have support work experience and access to your own transport. In return, we will offer flexible working hours, excellent rates of pay and a choice of placements. For an informal discussion, please contact: Mira 01303 221666 folkestone@superior-care.co.uk

To apply/more information: Superior Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 221666
Email folkestone@superior-care.co.uk

Domestic Staff/ Care Staff

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home A busy family run home require dedicated Domestic Staff/Care Staff and Kitchen Assistant For more information please call Amanda - 01227 721527 Mon - Fri.

To apply/more information: Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Community Care Workers - West Kent Locality

Kent
Salary: TBA
Community Care Workers - West Kent Locality To support people with disabilities or the elderly, particularly those with dementia. NVQ2 preferred although we provide full training. A competitive rate of pay is offered, with enhanced rate for evenings, nights and weekends Crisis Support Workers Experienced dementia staff needed whose duties may include crisis support. Additional on call and call out premiums apply for this post. A full current driving licence and access to a car is essential for both posts. Posts are subject to a CRB check. For application packs or further information please telephone Micheala Clack on 01732 357555. Carers FIRST is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

To apply/more information: Carers First
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 357555
Email micheala.clack@carersfirst.org.uk

Crisis Support Workers

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Crisis Support Workers Experienced dementia staff needed whose duties may include crisis support. Additional on call and call out premiums apply for this post. A full current driving licence and access to a car is essential for both posts. Posts are subject to a CRB check. For application packs or further information please telephone Micheala Clack on 01732 357555. Carers FIRST is an Equal Opportunities Employer

To apply/more information: Carers First
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 357555
Email micheala.clack@carersfirst.org.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Mystery Shoppers

Kent
Salary: TBA
Part-time Mystery Shoppers required No experience required. Must have access to email. For more information, contact Louise on 07779 377223.

To apply/more information: Retail Solutions UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07779377223
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Independent Sales Distributor

Kent
Salary: OTE £45K PA
Run your own exciting bookselling business with the UK's biggest direct bookseller! OTE £45K PA We welcome applications from both men and women Join the Book People as an independent sales distributor and you'll have the best of both worlds - working as your own boss with the support and backing of an award-winning company. • We help you set up • We keep your initial outlay low • We provide full training • Ideal for husband-and-wife teams • Huge potential earnings. To find out more call 0845 606 4276 or check our regularly updated information pages at www.thebookpeople.co.uk/distributors

To apply/more information: Index Books Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 606 4276
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

FULL TIME and 1 PART TIME for ASHFORD 1 PART TIME for FOLKESTONE (Please specify whether your application is for full or part time and preferred area)

To apply/more information: Pickwick Pawnbrokers
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@pickwickpawnbrokers.co.uk

Jewellers and Pawnbrokers

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
STAFF WANTED (You must have jewellery experience)
Jewellers & Pawnbrokers 1 FULL TIME and 1 PART TIME for ASHFORD 1 PART TIME for FOLKESTONE (Please specify whether your application is for full or part time and preferred area) Interested? email CVs to info@pickwickpawnbrokers.co.uk kor post to..... Pickwick Pawnbrokers, 14 High Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1BY.

To apply/more information: Pickwick Pawnbrokers
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@pickwickpawnbrokers.co.uk

Salesperson

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: OTE £35K
Salesperson - Tunbridge Wells • OTE £35K • There's no limit to what you can earn • Company Pension Scheme • Life Assurance • Savings Bonus Plan Join the DFS sales team and you'll get the best of both worlds: great pay and fantastic job satisfaction. If you get a buzz out of talking to customers and helping them to choose the perfect sofa, we want to hear from you. If you've got sales experience then great, if not, we'll give you the best training in the business and every opportunity to build a long and satisfying career, where there is no limit to what you can achieve or earn. If you want to take home more than great pay, call us now on 01302 573333, quoting ref: 68/06/1/10 or apply online at www.dfs.co.uk

To apply/more information: DFS
Quoting Job Ref: ref: 68/06/1/10
Tel: 01302 573333
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Scientific & Pharmaceutical, Research

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

Folkestone
Salary: £14,099 - £15,984 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 23rd June 2010
SCIENCE TECHNICIAN Kent Scheme 3 (£14,099 - £15,984 pro rata per annum) 37 hours a week, Term-time plus 10 days Your main responsibilities will include: - the preparation of practical lessons - record-keeping - ordering supplies - displaying class work - assisting the science teacher during lesson time, and where necessary, to help students with experiments. You should be able to demonstrate a good basic knowledge and understanding of laboratory techniques and previous school experience would be an advantage. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

To apply/more information: Pent Vally Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Email samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

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SALES EXECUTIVE

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Caffyns Peugeot
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 740740
Email sue.byrom@caffyns.co.uk

Jewellers and Pawnbrokers

Ashford
Salary: TBA
STAFF WANTED (You must have jewellery experience)
Jewellers & Pawnbrokers 1

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

PILGRIMS WAY, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water main, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Pilgrims Way, Brabourne on or after 21 June 2010 for an estimated period of four weeks or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Weekes Lane and New Barn Hill. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Weekes Lane, Green Lane and Bulltown Lane.

ASHFORD ROAD, KINGSNORTH (10 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of installation of a new water main, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order in respect of Ashford Road, Kingsnorth. The Order comes into effect on or after 28 June 2010 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until the works are complete, and affects the section of road between from the junction with Magpie Hall Road for a distance of 300 metres northwards.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory 10 mph speed restriction within the roadworks. This will only be implemented at such times when it is not safe to work without this restriction, and will be operated by means of a "convoy", whilst the roadworks are taking place. It is planned the work will be done in rolling sections of 100 metres at a time.

The order will only be in force at the specific times when the works are being carried out. At these times, the appropriate signs and temporary traffic signals will be displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

CLEMENT STREET, SUTTON AT HONE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use of vehicular traffic on Clement Street, Sutton at Hone for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 14th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Goss Hill, Barn End Lane, Shirehall Road, Hawley Road and Arnolds Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works for KHS Drainage Team carrying out soakaway cleansing, J Brownes on behalf of Thames Water carrying out a new water supply and Murphys on behalf of EDF installing a high voltage cable.

OVERY STREET, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Overy Street, Dartford under and either side of the railway bridge.

The Order will become effective on 28th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 evening between 19.00 - 22.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

- Eastbound:** Temple Hill, Mill Pond Road, Hythe Street, Home Gardens and Overy Street.
- Southbound:** Overy Street, Overy Liberty, Market Street, Lowfield Street, Instone Road, Highfield Road, Highfield Road North, Westgate Road, Hythe Street and Mill Pond Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway repairs.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

GORE LANE, EASTRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that to allow BT access to a carriageway box for cabling and jointing works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Gore Lane, Eastry on or after 20 June 2010 for an estimated period of 1 day or until the works are complete. It is planned the works will be carried out between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.00 pm.

The road will be closed outside 13 Boteler Cottages. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Mill Lane, High Street, Woodnesborough Lane, Lower Gore Lane and Gore Lane.

SINGLEEDGE LANE AND BEWSBURY CROSS LANE, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Singleedge Lane and Bewsbury Cross Lane, Whitfield.

The Order takes effect on or after 14 June 2010. The works are planned as follows:

Road name: Singleedge Lane
Extent: Will be closed between the junctions with Bewsbury Crescent and Nursery Lane
Dates: From 14 June 2010 for up to 2 weeks
Alternative route: Via Bewsbury Crescent and Nursery Lane.

Road name: Bewsbury Cross Lane
Extent: Will be closed to the south of the southern junction with Grace Meadow
Dates: From 20 September 2010 for up to 1 week
Alternative route: There will be no access to through traffic between the junctions with Sandwich Road and Nursery Lane, with these roads forming the alternative route.

The Order will remain valid for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required for works of a similar nature.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

ROAD FARM LANE, OTTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Road Farm Lane 30 metres north of Oakenpole Wood on or after Monday 14th June 2010 for a period of up to 12 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Slade Road, Lady Margaret Manor Road, Seed Road and Road Farm Lane.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is David Creasey of Amber Langis Limited on 01732 783985.

B2163 PENFOLD HILL, BURBERRY LANE, A20 ASHFORD ROAD, LEEDS (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION AND NO RIGHT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 30mph on B2163 Penfold Hill and Burberry Lane and no person shall, except upon the direction of a Police Officer, cause or permit a vehicle to carry out a right hand turn from Leeds Castle Entrance onto the A20 Ashford Road at times when required on 3rd/4th July 2010.

Heritage Special Events Limited apologise for any inconvenience caused by these restrictions, which are necessary because of the Open Air Classical Concert. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Jon Wright on 0845 652 6262.

VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE (SPEED LIMITS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order extends the 30 mph speed limit from the existing termination point in Boughton Lane (approximately in line with the southern flank wall of 64 Boughton Lane) for a distance of 186 metres in a southerly direction.

The Order was sealed on 7 June 2010 and will come into force 14 June 2010.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices at Maidstone Borough Council and at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

WELL ROAD, OTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Well Road, Otford between house numbers 54 and 68.

The Order will become effective on 28th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via: Sidney Gardens and Evelyn Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate permanent reinstatement to drainage excavation.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

ROOK LANE, BOBBING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT duct laying, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Rook Lane, Bobbing, on or after 14 June 2010 for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Keycol Hill, Bobbing Hill and Coldharbour Lane.

PERRY WOOD, SELLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT works to replace a damaged pole and carry out jointing works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Perry Wood, Selling on or after 28 June 2010 for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junction with Pickens Forstal and Sand Bank Farm. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Pickens Forstall, Reynolds Grove Road and Grove Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because a programme of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Thanet as shown below, on or after 14 June 2010.

Road name: Belmont Street, Ramsgate
Extent: Between the junction with King Street and the junction with Turner Street
Dates: Monday 14 June 2010 for 3 days between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.30 pm
Alternative route: Via King Street Brunswick Street and Hardres Street.

Road name: Park Road, Birchington
Extent: Between Quex Park Caravan Park and Somali Farm
Dates: Tuesday 15 June 2010 for 3 days, between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm
Alternative route: Via Shottendane Road, B2050 Manston Road, Park Lane, A28 The Square, A28 Canterbury Road, Charlesworth Drive, The Parkway and Park Road. Access will be maintained to the Caravan Park.

Road name: Westgate Bay Avenue / St Mildred's Road, Westgate On Sea
Extent: These roads will be closed at their intersection
Dates: Monday 14 June 2010 for 1 day
Alternative route: **Eastbound** via Sea Road and Westgate Bay Avenue
Northbound from St Mildred's Road via Station Road, Roxburgh Road and Westgate Bay Avenue
Westbound via Roxburgh Road, Station Road, Cuthbert Road, Domneva Road and Westgate Bay Avenue
Southbound via Sea Road and Westgate Bay Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

YOPPS GREEN, PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Yoppes Green Plaxtol from outside Barton Farm House on or after Tuesday 8th June to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for, Tree Lane , Plaxtol Lane, Tonbridge Road, Bewley Lane and Sheet Hill.

Owen Mullen Contractors apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for BT to carry out duct work, their contact is Steven Mullan on 01795 429800.

SANDY LANE RYARSH (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandy Lane, Ryarsh on or after 14th June 2010 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Sandy Lane Ryarsh the route described above is for via A20 London Road, Town Hill, High Street, West Street and Norman Road and vice versa.

Kent highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary drainage works Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Jamie Finch on 01233 614000.

STANFORD LANE, HADLOW (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stanford Lane from the junction of A26 Maidstone Road for approximately 100m on or after Monday 21st June 2010 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A26 Maidstone Road, Court Lane, Bells Farm Road, Stanford Lane.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for drainage works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Jamie Finch on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Saturday 19th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule	
Road Name:	Benenden Road, Benenden
Extent:	Walkhurst Road to Stepneyford Lane
Dates:	Start: 19th June 2010 End: 20th June 2010 - days
Diversion:	Iden Green Road, A268 Link Hill, A28 Hastings Road, A28 Rolvenden High Street, B2086 Benenden Road.
Road Name:	Vale Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent:	Mount Pleasant Road to A26 London Road
Dates:	Start: 23rd July 2010 End: 28th July 2010 - 4 working nights
Diversion:	High Street, A26 London Road.
Road Name:	High Street, Cranbrook
Extent:	Waterloo Road to Wheatfield Drive
Dates:	Start: 13th August 2010 End: 16th August 2010 - 2 working nights
Diversion:	Waterloo Road, A229 Angley Road, Cranbrook High Street.
Road Name:	A262 Goudhurst Road, Goudhurst
Extent:	Glassenbury Road to A229Angley Road
Dates:	Start: 16th August 2010 End: 17th August 2010 - nights
Diversion:	A262 Goudhurst Road, A229 Angley Road, Hartley Road, Glassenbury Road, A262 Goudhurst Road.

Road Name: Whitewell Lane, Cranbrook
Extent: A229 Angley Road to A262 Goudhurst Road
Dates: Start: 16th August 2010
End: 17th August 2010 - nights
Diversion: A229 Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate carriageway resurfacing works to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services.

Please note: Access will be maintained for all residents, businesses and their visitors as much as possible during the works.

**For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

Audit Commission Act 1998, sections 15 - 16

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 Regulations 13, 14 & 16

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by the District Auditor Andy Mack of the Audit Commission, Ground Floor Front, 16 South Park, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1AN. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From 5 July to 30 July 2010 between 9am and 4pm any person may inspect the accounts of the Council for the year ended 2009/10 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address given below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.
2. From 9am on 2 August 2010 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
3. From 9am on 2 August 2010 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may object to the Council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 17 of the Audit Commission Act 1998). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

Dated 11 June 2010

David Hughes
Chief Executive

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ



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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 10/01790/LBC** **2 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
Listed Building Consent - Alter rendered wall to brick wall to match existing garden wall (LB)
- 10/01738/FUL** **E C Wilkes & Son Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
Removal of flat roof connecting main building to development site and conversion of building to form a 1 bed residential unit on two levels (LB) (CA)
- 10/01746/LBC** **E C Wilkes & Son Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
Listed Building Consent - Removal of flat roof connecting main building to development site and conversion of building to form a 1 bed residential unit on two levels (LB)
- 10/01797/FUL** **Heathervale House 2 - 4 Vale Avenue, Culverden**
Proposed roof extension to provide nine apartments with new entrance extension to front elevation and retention of office use (CA)
- 10/01758/HOUSE** **Mulberry Cottage Rogers Rough Road, Goudhurst**
Alteration to remove a recessed bedroom window with cupboard below and add a dormer window. Alteration to raise a bay window flat roof (CA)
- 10/01563/HOUSE** **Slip Mill Cottage Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst**
Single-storey kitchen extension (LB)
- 10/01572/LBC** **Slip Mill Cottage Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst**
Listed Building Consent - Single-storey kitchen extension (LB)
- 10/01712/FUL** **Lots 1 - 14 Land To South Of, Paddock Wood**
Erection of a fence around the perimeter of the land; Replacement of existing gate (part retrospective) (PROW)
- 10/01740/FUL** **56 Frant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
Construction of 5 houses and 2 flats over garages associated parking and access improvements (CA)
- 10/01793/HOUSE** **Woodside Dunorlan Park, Park**
New driveway access with gates and brick piers and associated landscaping (CA)
- 10/01743/FUL** **Honnington Farm Vauxhall Lane, Southborough North**
Change of use of agricultural land to form new 3000m2 surface flow reed bed (PROW)
- 10/01749/HOUSE** **Beth Holme Church Road, Southborough North**
New brickwork piers and metal entrance gates (LB) (CA)
- 10/01820/LBC** **Greenholme The Green, Speldhurst**
Listed Building Consent - Create a bathroom in the existing basement, create a shower room on the second floor and alter the existing bathroom into a bedroom on the first floor (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 12 June 2010



TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5(4) APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which Article 5(4) applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 2 June 2010 and comes into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the date on which this Notice is first published. However, the Direction will expire on 1 December 2010 unless it is approved by the Secretary of State before that date.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 2 - MINOR OPERATIONS

Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 4 - TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES

Class B

The use of the land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any movable structure for the purpose of the permitted use.

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 0.606524 hectares west of Pixot Hill Brenchley Kent.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 12th June 2010



Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2008 – Regulation 25

Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Development Framework

Notice of public participation on the Town Centres Area Action Plan Development Plan Document and the Allocations Development Plan Document

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is currently preparing the following Development Plan Documents (DPD) as part of its Local Development Framework (LDF):

1. **Town Centres Area Action Plan DPD:** to address specific issues relating to, and to allocate sites within, the town centres of Royal Tunbridge Wells; Southborough; Paddock Wood; and Cranbrook
2. **Allocations DPD:** to allocate sites for a range of uses across the whole Borough in the areas outside the town centres listed in (1) above

This is the second stage of engagement, commencing on **Monday 14 June 2010** for a period of eight weeks. The Borough Council will host exhibitions at various locations around the Borough during the period 17 June to 03 July. For dates and venues, go to www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/caap.

The consultation will consist of a series of questionnaires, which can be viewed and downloaded, along with the supporting documentation, on the above webpage and they are also available for public inspection at the following locations:

- ☐ **Tunbridge Wells Gateway**, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2AB. The Gateway is open from 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am-6.30pm on Thursdays; and 10am-4pm on Saturdays
- ☐ **Weald Information Centre**, The Old Fire Station, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HF, open from 8.30am-5pm (Monday to Friday)
- ☐ **All libraries** in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. Please check with the particular library for opening times

Representations can be returned as follows:

- 1) Online at <http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk>
- 2) By e-mail to planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk (using the editable questionnaire)
- 3) By post to Planning Policy, Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS (using a printed questionnaire).
- 4) By fax to 01892 554076 (using a printed questionnaire)

Representations must be made in writing (including electronically) and be received at the addresses specified in (1) to (4) above within the eight-week period from **Monday 14 June to Monday 09 August 2010**. All representations made in this way will be taken into account in the preparation of the DPDs.

The Borough Council will also be consulting on the **Borough Transport Strategy** alongside these two LDF documents. For specific details, go to www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/transport.



LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE

I, Omer Dirilmis, have applied to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for variation of the existing premises licence for: Charcoal Grill, 52 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2AS in order:

To extend the hours for the provision of late night refreshment - Monday to Wednesday until 02:30hrs; Thursday until 03:00hrs; Friday / Saturday until 05:00hrs and Sunday until 02:00hrs the following day.

To extend the hours for sale of alcohol at Bank Holidays, Christmas and New Year.

Full details of the application can be viewed in Tunbridge Wells Council's Licensing Register, which is available for inspection at: the Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS.

Residents and businesses in the vicinity of the premises, or their representatives, may make representations in respect of the application. Any representations must be made in writing and be received by: The Licensing Dept. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS by no later than: Friday 9th July 2010.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to £5,000 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

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www.carsforkent.co.ukBy **STEVE LOADER**

HAVING re-written the mid-section of the car market with its Qashqai crossover, Nissan is about to try the same with the lower end.

Order books are open for the new Juke compact crossover, priced from £12,795 and available with two or four-wheel drive.

There will even be a 190PS (187bhp) performance flagship to add glamour to the line-up – Nissan is pitching this £15,695 version as ‘compact SUV meets sports car’.

There is also the added bonus for UK buyers that they can be seen to be buying British; Nissan’s Sunderland plant is building the expected best-selling two-wheel drive versions of the car.

The five-door Juke’s pugnacious styling will be an acquired taste for many though – funky is the most positive description and it can look like a bug-eyed bulldog from some angles. Apart from the hot engine option, there will be two sensible choices: a frugal 117PS (115bhp) 1.6-litre petrol and the familiar Renault-derived fuel-sipping 110PS (108bhp) 1.5-litre dCi diesel.

The range will comprise familiar Nissan specification levels – Visia, Acenta and Tekna – but start off on the generous side.

The entry-level Visia comes with 16-inch alloys, electronic stability system, six

airbags, sports seats and air con, while also offering the practicality of the Juke’s funky five-door shape.

The ultimate Juke comes with that new 190PS 1.6-litre direct injection turbo petrol engine in both two and four-wheel drive; the £19,995 all-wheel-drive range-topper has a continuously-variable (CVT) auto gearbox with six-speed manual mode.

Along with the innovative styling and roomy cabin comes the new Nissan dynamic control system. The Japanese marque

says this is a central command and display module like no other, allowing the driver to alter the car’s drive settings and functions such as climate control.

The Juke arrives in September and Nissan’s UK managing director Paul Willcox has given it a big build-up.

He said: “For many years buyers in this sector have had a pretty conservative range to choose from.

“Now we have Juke crossover which offers something innovative and exciting for the

same price as a bland five-door hatchback.”

Question is though, which models will make way for this new Nissan niche-buster? When the brand launched the Qashqai, it brought the axe down on the Almera hatchback, Primera family model and the Almera Tino MPV.

Could the Juke spell the end for the Micra supermini and the Note mini-MPV?

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NEARLY NEW 2010 59 09 REG CARS

10 MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 AVANTGARDE SE SDR HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 950 miles.....	£15,995
10 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM SDR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 400 miles.....	£15,995
09 FORD FOCUS C22 CONVERTIBLE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 4000 miles.....	£14,995
09 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TO MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles.....	£14,995
09 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 650 miles.....	£14,995
09 MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE SDR TO HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 8000 miles.....	£13,995
09 FORD FOCUS ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£12,995
09 MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE LWB SDR HATCH AUTO, BROWN, 5000 miles.....	£12,995
09 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ZETEC 145 MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£12,995
09 MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles.....	£12,495
10 FORD FUSION TITANIUM SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£11,995
09 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 6000 miles.....	£10,995
09 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, BEIGE/BUFF, 2000 miles.....	£10,495
09 SUZUKI SWIFT GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles.....	£10,495
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles.....	£10,495
09 FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 999 miles.....	£9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£9,995
09 DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, MAROON, 1900 miles.....	£9,995
09 VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£9,495
09 CHEVROLET AVEO LT SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£8,495
09 KIA PICANTO 2 SDR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 miles.....	£7,995
09 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN SDR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 1500 miles.....	£7,995
09 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles.....	£6,495

CONVERTIBLE CABRIOLETS

09 MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£29,995
09 FORD FOCUS C22 CONVERTIBLE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 4000 miles.....	£14,995
08 PEUGEOT 207 GT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 1000 miles.....	£11,995
08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, INFERNO RED, 7000 miles.....	£11,995
07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£10,995
08 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£10,995
08 NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£9,995
08 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles.....	£9,995
08 NISSAN MICRA CC ESSENZA CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 28000 miles.....	£9,995
05 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles.....	£8,495
05 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT 16V TWINPORT COUPE, BLACK, 25000 miles.....	£7,995

FIESTA

07 FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£7,995
08 FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V SDR HATCH, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£7,995
08 FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 1600 miles.....	£7,495
07 FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 16V SDR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles.....	£6,495

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

10 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM SDR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 400 miles.....	£15,995
09 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 650 miles.....	£14,995
09 FORD FOCUS ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£12,995
09 FORD FOCUS STYLE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles.....	£11,995
08 FORD FOCUS STYLE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles.....	£9,995
08 FORD FOCUS STYLE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£9,995
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles.....	£9,995
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles.....	£7,995
07 FORD FOCUS SPORT 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles.....	£7,495
08 FORD FOCUS GHIA SALOON AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
08 FORD FOCUS GHIA SALOON AUTO, BLUE, 26000 miles.....	£6,995
08 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles.....	£6,995
03 FORD FOCUS GHIA SALOON AUTO, RED, 48000 miles.....	£4,995

FOCUS ESTATES

09 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ZETEC 145 MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£12,995
06 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles.....	£7,995
06 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 18000 miles.....	£7,995
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£7,995
06 FORD FOCUS LX 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 22000 miles.....	£6,995
06 FORD FOCUS LX 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£6,995
06 FORD FOCUS LX 16V ESTATE AUTO, TANGO RED, 21000 miles.....	£6,995

RENAULT SCENIC

08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIC TD MPV AUTO, EXTREME BLUE, 10000 miles.....	£10,995
07 RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 75TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£9,995
08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 6000 miles.....	£9,995
08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£9,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles.....	£9,495
07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 MPV AUTO, GOLD, 23000 miles.....	£8,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 19000 miles.....	£8,995
08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£8,495
07 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GOLD, 16000 miles.....	£7,995
06 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 MPV AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£7,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles.....	£7,495
06 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£7,495
06 RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, GOLD, 17000 miles.....	£6,995
05 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles.....	£5,995

RENAULT

06 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£10,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles.....	£9,995
08 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles.....	£8,995
08 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£8,995
06 RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles.....	£8,995
07 RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£8,495
05 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles.....	£8,495
07 RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 15000 miles.....	£7,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£7,995
06 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT MPV AUTO, GOLD, 21000 miles.....	£6,995
05 RENAULT MODUS PRIVILEGE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles.....	£5,995
05 RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles.....	£5,995

CHEVROLET

09 CHEVROLET AVEO LT SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£8,495
08 CHEVROLET AVEO LT SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles.....	£7,995
09 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 900 miles.....	£7,995
08 CHEVROLET AVEO LT SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles.....	£7,995
09 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£7,495
09 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£7,495
08 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles.....	£6,995
08 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£6,995
09 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles.....	£6,495
07 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles.....	£5,995
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£5,995
07 CHEVROLET KALOS SX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£5,495
07 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£5,495
06 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£5,495
07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles.....	£4,995
07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 16000 miles.....	£4,995
07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 29000 miles.....	£4,995
06 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£4,495

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault Clio 1.2 16V 75 are: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.9 (5.9). The official CO2 emission figure is 139g/km. Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status, a guarantor may be required, written quotations on request. Finance provided by Renault UK and RCI Financial Services Limited. P.O. Box 493 Watford WD17 1FJ. These offers are available to retail customers only. These offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to press. Offers must end 30th June 2010. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £395). Examples above exclude cost of optional metallic paint.

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Mégane line-up topped off with a new crop top

RENAULT will soon top off its all-new Mégane range in more than one sense of the word – by launching the Mégane Coupé Cabriolet derivative.

Order books are now open prior to the showroom launch on July 9, priced from £21,595. The four-seater comes with a generous

standard specification including 17-inch alloys, panoramic electric glass folding roof, fixed glass wind deflector, hands-free keycard and fully integrated TomTom sat nav.

Six engine and transmission combinations are available, including Renault's new double-clutch EDC auto gearbox.

Top tech Exeo value with a dash of Audi

SEAT says it is launching one of its best-specified cars yet, with the showroom debut this summer of the new Exeo Tech and Exeo ST Tech models.

These luxurious new cars are available to order now and join the existing Exeo line-up of S, SE, Sport and SE Lux versions, while adding £3,270 of equipment for an extra £875.

Add-ons include DVD-based colour screen sat nav, Bose premium audio upgrade, black

leather seats and an iPod connection.

Such additions will not be lost on company car drivers and fleet managers who realise they would have needed to check several options boxes, thereby driving up the car's price and the dreaded Benefit In Kind tax.

They will also know that they are effectively getting an Audi on the cheap too – the Exeo is derived from the previous generation A4.



VW takes on Giugiaro design house



VOLKSWAGEN has stepped up links with design house Italdesign Giugiaro (IDG) – source of so many group car designs, including the original VW Golf (pictured).

Under the deal, Volkswagen Group takes a 90.1 per cent stake in IDG via Audi's Italian subsidiary Lamborghini.

VW chief Professor Dr Martin Winterkorn said: "With this shareholding in Italdesign, we are participating in one of the most renowned design and devel-

opment companies with one of the richest traditions in the automobile industry."

Italdesign's founding father Giorgetto Giugiaro not only penned the Golf Mk1, but also a design philosophy for the VW group as it emerged from the Beetle era, with key models such as the first Passat, the Scirocco coupé and Audi 80.

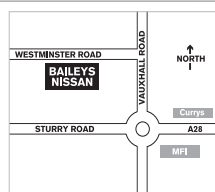
The influence has continued and will shortly be applauded again with the arrival of the new VW Up! baby car.



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*Price shown includes £2,000 NBBTS Discount. **Finance available subject to status. Offers available from 01/04/2010 to 30/06/2010 in the UK to persons aged 18 or over. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Nissan Finance, a trading style of RCFIS Ltd, PO Box 495, Watford WD17 1FJ. Terms and conditions apply to both Nissan British Built Trade In Scheme and Clear Nissan – please see www.nissan.co.uk or your nearest participating Nissan dealer for full details. The guaranteed £2,000 trade in applies to cars registered in the UK on or before 31st August 2003. Breakdown and services provided by RAC Motoring Services and/or RAC Insurance Ltd. All prices include first registration fee and first year road fund licence. Model shot shown is for illustration purposes only. Refer to dealer for exact specification. Information correct at time of going to press. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Offers shown only apply to Retail sales types. Offers are available at participating Nissan dealers only. Micra shown has metallic paint at £400 inc. VAT. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS.

Peugeot marks 200 years

by
STEVE LOADER

PEUGEOT made its name before it starting making cars and is now celebrating 200 years in the manufacturing business.

Brothers Jean-Pierre and Jean-Frédéric Peugeot established the French company after converting their father's corn mill into a steel mill, as the industrial revolution gathered pace.

Since then Peugeot has been associated with saws, tools, steel crinoline stays, salt and pepper mills, coffee grinders, bicycles, motorcycles, scooters, cars and vans.

It chose the lion as its hallmark as early as 1858, and recently re-designed it once more as the motor arm seeks to jump from being the world's 10th biggest vehicle maker to seventh by 2015.

It has also launched one of its most radical cars for years, the superb RCZ sports coupé.

Innovations in the meantime have been the first folding hardtop Coupé-Cabriolet or 'CC', the 1930s-vintage 401 Eclipse.

Peugeot revived the format at the turn of the 21st century with the 206CC and started a trend across the industry.

The marque has also played a major role in developing diesel engines for the car market, smoothing many of the wrinkles that originally prevented the type catching on in markets like the UK.

The brand was also an electric car pioneer as early as 1941, launching the ION concept in the 1990s, and later creating a practical electric version of its 106 supermini.



It plans a diesel-electric hybrid version of the 3008 crossover shortly too – the 3008 HYbrid4 producing 35 per cent less CO2 than a diesel – and then following up with a rechargeable plug-in 3008 HYbrid in 2012.

Meanwhile, Peugeot has continued to invest in alternative green transport; it remains a major bicycle manufacture and will launch an electrically-powered bicycle this year, planned to integrate with its forthcoming iOn electric city car and electric motor scooter in future urban planning.

The marque can also be proud of rescuing and revitalising fellow French marque Citroën, with which it shares the cost of engine and vehicle platforms, while allowing both brands to pursue different courses in marketing and design.

Peugeot itself will follow the RCZ with a staggering 14 new models between now and 2012.



ROAR POWER: Peugeot's car of the moment in this bi-centenary year is the RCZ Peugeot (top) while the company is a pioneer of the Coupé-Convertibles starting with the 401 Eclipse

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the RCZ Range are: Urban 28.5–49.5 (9.9–5.7), extra urban 49.5–76.3 (5.7–3.7), combined 39.2–64.2 (7.2–4.4) and CO₂ 117–171 (g/km).

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2007 57 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 TCE 6T AR CON ALLOYS CLOAKING 15320 MILES IN SILVER	£6,995 C
2009 09 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17" ALLOYS CUP PACK AC CD BLUE TOOTH 3300 MILES PEARL BLACK	£10,795 A
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2007 57 MODUS 1.2 TCE 100 EXPRESSION AC ELEC PACK 4x AIR BAGS ABS 29273 MILES MERCURY	£6,495 A
2006 06 MODUS 1.6 16V AUTO DYNAMIQUE 15" ALLOYS CD AC ELEC PACK 17910 MILES MERCURY	£6,495 C
2007 07 MODUS 1.4 PRIVILEGE ALLOYS AR CON FRONT FOG LIGHTS 5700 MILES IN SILVER	£7,495 C
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2008 08 GRAND MODUS 1.6 16V AUTODYNAMIQUE 15" ALLOYS CD AC ELEC PACK 9602 MILES MERCURY SILVER	£8,895 A

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2007 07 MEGANE SPORT HATCH 1.4 16V EXTREME 16" ALLOYS CD AC ABS ELEC PACK 24580 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£5,995 A
2005 05 MEGANE SALOON 1.9 dci 120 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AR CON SUN ROOF ELEC PACK IN SILVER WITH 38624 MILES	£5,995 C
2007 56 MEGANE 1.6 VVT EXPRESSION 5DR AR CON CD ELEC PACK ABS 4x AIR BAGS 23355 MILES MERCURY	£6,295 A
2007 56 MEGANE 5DR 1.4 16V EXPRESSION ARCON CLOAKING CD PLAYER 22000 MILES MET GUINPEAL	£6,495 M
2007 07 MEGANE 3DR 1.4 16V EXTREME ALLOYS ARCON MULTI IF POINT 15031 MILES MET PLAME RED	£6,495 M
2007 07 MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AUTO 5DR 16" ALLOYS CD AC ABS ELEC PACK 13700 MILES QUARTZ	£6,895 A
2007 07 MEGANE 1.4 EXTREME 5DR RADIO CD PLAYER PAS CLOAKING 21294 MILES IN GUN METAL	£6,995 C
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2007 07 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1.6 VVT 5DR ALLOYS HALF BEIGE LEATHER TRIP COMPUTER 29K IN SILVER	£6,995 C
2007 56 MEGANE 3DR 1.6 VVT EXPRESSION SINGLE CD PLAYER CLOAKING 27800 MILES MET MERCURY	£6,995 M
2008 08 MEGANE 1.4 16V EXTREME 5DR CD AC REMOTE LOCKING ABS 13075 MILES QUARTZ	£7,795 A
2007 57 MEGANE 1.5 dci 106 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AIR CONDITIONING ELEC PACK FOG LIGHTS 22142 MILES IN ECURSE	£7,995 C
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2007 56 SCENIC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE 16" ALLOYS CD AR CON ELEC PACK 21410 MILES MERCURY SILVER		£7,495 A
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2006 56 SCENIC 5DR 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS ARCON CLOAKING 34820 MILES MET FLAME RED		£7,495 M
2007 07 GRAND SCENIC 35 1.9 dci 130 PRIVILEGE 16" ALLOYS CD AR CON 1/2 LEATHER 36880 MILES STORM BLUE		£7,895 A
2006 06 6-SCENIC 7ST 2.0 AUTO PRIVILEGE CLIMATE ALLOYS HALF LEATHER BEIGE 17084 MILES PACIFIC BLUE		£7,995 M
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2008 57 GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AR CON 7 SEATER CD ELEC PACK 18733 MILES IN QUARTZ		£9,295 C
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2008 08 GRAND SCENIC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AR CON 7 SEATER CD ELEC PACK 13607 MILES IN QUARTZ		£9,495 C
2008 08 GRAND SCENIC 1.5 DCI 106 DYNAMIQUE 16" ALLOYS CD AC 7 SEATS 20863 MILES QUARTZ		£10,395 A
2009 59 NEW SCENIC 1.5 DCI 106 DYNAMIQUE 16" ALLOYS CD AC HANDS FREE LOCKING C/C 7960 MILES EXTREME BLUE		£13,895 A

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2009 59 NEW GRAND SCENIC 1.5 DCI 106 DYNAMIQUE 16" ALLOYS CD AC C/H HANDS FREE LOCKING 8220 MILES	£14,895 A
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2008 08 LAGUNA 2.0 DCI 150 DYNAMIQUE'S 1/2 LEATHER 17" ALLOYS CD CRUISE CLIMATE SR 15104 MILES PEARL BLACK	£10,995 M
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2009 09 LAGUNA STOURER 2.0 DCI 180 INITIALLE LEATHER SAT NAV PARK SENSORS ELEC SEATS 8600 MILES TWILIGHT BLUE	£16,895 A
2009 59 LAGUNA COUPE GT 2.0 DCI 180 RHP BODY KIT 4 WHEEL STEER 11000 MILES MET OYSTER EX DEMO	£16,895 A
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CABRIOLET

2006 56 MEGANE CC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AR CON ALLOYS CD ELEC PACK 31491 MILES MET BLACK	£8,995 C
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KANGOO

2006 56 KANGOO 1.6 16V AUTO EXPRESSION PAS CLOCKING CD/PLAYER 16288 MILES MET INTENSE BLUE	£6,795 M
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2009 59 NEW KANGOO 1.5 DCI 106 EXPRESSION CLIMATE ABS CD ELEC PACK 6066 MILES SURFBLEU METALLIC	£11,695

New 'Five' shines despite bonnet styling by Jumbo

BMW'S best-known product is the big-selling 3-Series.

The car that does most to make BMW profitable though is the bigger 5-Series.

When I reviewed the previous generation 520d a year ago, I likened its sector of the car market to a soap opera where the long-running hero (the BMW) had trounced all-comers until Jaguar's silky XF introduced a new plotline, putting the Bavarian under pressure while reviving the fortunes of the UK executive marque.

And while the new generation 'Five' launched earlier this year marks a huge visual improvement over the odd profile and weird shutlines of the previous car, it still can't match the Jag.

The new model's scalloped bonnet and protruding nose even evokes that brilliant Peugeot ad, where a would-be 206 buyer in India re-shapes his old banger by having an elephant sit on the bonnet – the BMW can't help but look like it is groaning under the weight of Jumbo's backside.

Nevertheless, the new 'Five' is classier and sleeker than last time and the fit and finish peerless.

The air of quality continues inside, though the march of the gimmicky – a weakness that BMW could never have been accused of a few years ago – continues.

I found the sounds/sat nav iDrive interface irritating and overly complex – it might ape Apple's use of the 'i' prefix, but is nothing like

DrivingReview



by
STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
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BMW 530d

as intuitive as the classic iPod, iPhone and now the iPad, even if BMW's intention was the opposite.

The 'ergonomic' auto gearbox selector is also ugly and fussy to use until you get used to it.

Once under way though, my mutterings subsided. This new BMW is a true class act and I even like one piece of new technology – the 'head-up' display for the speedo.

Despite being slightly larger than before, the car feels nimble and bowls along beautifully



with the use of aluminium for some bodywork, enhancing the natural balance of BMW's classic rear-wheel drive layout

This adds to a mix of sure-footed handling and out-and-out cruising comfort that counter-attacks the Jaguar XF's other big-selling point apart from elegant looks.

The £1,495 extra for the 5-Series' eight-speed

auto 'box also looks like money well spent; not only are the changes silky smooth whether in auto or manual mode, but it manages to lower CO2 emissions (160g/km) enough to limbo beneath the upper limit on road tax bracket G thereby incurring a flat £155/year.

The six-speed manual's 166g/km means a £250 hit in year one plus £180 thereafter and

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Excess mileage charge Pence per mile	2.81p

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there will be benefit in kind consequences too. On paper, the auto is marginally better on fuel as well – the official combined mpg is 45.6 against 44.8 for the manual – and yet both cars can leap smoothly to 62mph in just 6.3 seconds and on to a controlled maximum of 155mph. The 245bhp in-line six-cylinder is a delight, delivering power freely and smoothly with a

barely audible burble worthy of a refined V8 petrol. It also sits lightly in the car; all in all, a worthy rival to the Peugeot-Ford diesel that has played such a key role in the Jag XF's success. One area where the BMW has a clear edge though is in the cabin where the new model's longer wheelbase allows even more legroom than before and greater passenger comfort, yet the boot appears more cavernous. I was also impressed by the amount of kit that comes as standard – not a comment made often on BMWs in the past, especially so soon after launch. So it appears we have a new twist in the ongoing saga of a not so everyday executive star.

DrivingPortfolio

BMW 530d SE £37,175

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£155/year
Best rival	Jaguar XF

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE:
fact that the sounds and sat nav interface is still not particularly intuitive

NOT SURE:
styling and visual appeal of interior can quite square up to its best rival, the Jaguar XF

REALLY LIKE:
the mixture of class, image, comfort and genuine driving appeal rolled into one

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†(2) Typical finance example for low rate finance. *Including Credit Facility Fee and Completion Fee.

CASH PRICE	DEPOSIT	AMOUNT FINANCED	FIRST PAYMENT	46 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	1 FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST CHARGES	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT*	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	8.9% TYPICAL APR†
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Offers are based on selected pre-registered vehicles, all vehicles are 2010 registered, small selection are 59 plate vehicles registered 2010. (1) 2/4 years 0% APR is based on a minimum deposit of 50%, maximum amount of finance £7000 available on selected models. 24/48 month low rate 8.9% Typical APR is based on maximum finance amount of £5000. (3) Free servicing is for 2 routine services only. If any additional work is required this will be chargeable after authorisation from the customer. Routine services are limited to mileage. If mileage is exceeded, earlier services may be required to maintain recommended service schedules. Finance supplied by Barclays Partner Finance, PO Box 3979, Glasgow G51 1YL, subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Savings shown are against MRRP at time of publication. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock vehicles only whilst stocks last and cannot be in conjunction with any other offer. Offers apply to selected pre-registered vehicles purchased before 30th June 2010. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee (security checks and fuel) will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

ALFA ROMEO

156, 1.9jtd 16v multijet lusso, 2005, grey metallic with red leather, 86000 miles, £3995, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDm 16v, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, over 5000 vehicles in group s, £2951 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDm (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £15500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDm (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £15500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDm (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £15500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GT, Jtdm 16v Blackline, g157hm, air conditioning, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, cd player, full leather, alarm, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, 1799" alloys, black, 94000 miles, £8999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

GTV, 2.0 TS 16v LUSO, 2002, alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, grey, 59400 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GTV, 2.0 TS 16v LUSO, 2002, alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, grey, 59400 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GTV, 2.0 TS 16v LUSO, 2002, alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, grey, 59400 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

AZURE, Azure CONVE AUTO SAT NAV, 2525188, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, brake assist, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, silverlake blue, 19373 miles, £119000, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 116i SE 5dr, 25619188, air conditioning, climate control, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, radio, stereo, cd player, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, aluminium silver, 63288 miles, £9997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 116i SE 5dr, sh55wzo, air conditioning, parking sensor, power steering, electric handbrake, electric mirrors, abs, twin air bags, cd player, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, 16" alloys, gold, 48000 miles, £7999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 31881 miles, £12350, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330d M Sport, 2005, non standard colour, 1000 miles, £30000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320i SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 31536 miles, £11250, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, SE, 2000, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic blue, 80400 miles, £3500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

X3, 2.5 SE, bk54kwv, full leather, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, 4x4, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 0 miles, £11987, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

X3, 2.0d SE, hn05yov, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, 4x4, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 53622 miles, £12734, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

X3, 2.5 Sport AUTO, iF54kxv, full leather, heated seats, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, sports seats, xenon headlamps, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, 4x4, front and rear park distance control, maplewood trims, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 62134 miles, £10996, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

X5, V8 Sport Auto, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 30000 miles, £16500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X5, V8 Sport Auto, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 30000 miles, £16500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

X5, V8 Sport Auto, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 30000 miles, £16500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

X5, V8 Sport Auto, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 30000 miles, £16500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3 PICASSO, g9y0ox, 2 registered keepers remote central locking electric windows electric mirrors abs air conditioning climate control power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag cruise control immobiliser alloy wheels rear parking sensors roof rails service history, obsidian black, 11000 miles, £11495, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3 PICASSO, gk09up, 2 registered keepers franchise approved remote central locking front electric windows electric mirrors abs air conditioning power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag side airbags cruise control immobiliser alloy wheels, red, 11014 miles, £10795, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C3 PLURIEL, g159kc, remote central locking electric windows electric sunroof abs air conditioning power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag full leather interior alloy wheels service history, obsidian black, 4000 miles, £11495, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C4, 5, 1p071nj, 2 registered keepers remote central locking front electric windows power steering, arctic steel, 6000 miles, £7795, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C4, 5, gf071gj, 1 registered keeper franchise approved central locking electric windows electric mirrors abs climate control power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag side airbags cruise control immobiliser alloy wheels, grey, 30327 miles, £6995, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C4, 5, gk59tfo, 1 registered keeper franchise approved remote central locking electric windows electric mirrors abs traction control air conditioning drivers airbag passenger airbag power steering side airbags cruise control immobiliser alloy wheels bluetooth hands freekit, blue, 9000 miles, £12995, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C5, 16v, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights heated seats metallic paint multiple airbags, silver, 55 miles, £23990, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6 HDI 16v VTR+ 4dr Diesel Saloon, kx57vyv, air conditioning, remote central locking, alloy wheels, navigation system, trip computer, cruise control, electricdoor mirrors, reverse parking aid, heated front seat, grey, 15000 miles, £12995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C5, 16v, 2008, white, 7634 miles, £23000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C5, 16v, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows power fold mirrors multiple airbags, silver, 26000 miles, £23000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gk59vjg, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable seats, audio remote control, silver metallic, 2444 miles, £9995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gk59vjg, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable seats, audio remote control, silver metallic, 2444 miles, £9995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gk59vjg, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable seats, audio remote control, silver metallic, 2444 miles, £9995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gk59vjg, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable seats, audio remote control, silver metallic, 2444 miles, £9995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gk59vjg, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable seats, audio remote control, silver metallic, 2444 miles, £9995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2010, cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, black, 10 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2009, white, 6 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2009, abs brakes drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags remote central locking, white, 259 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 3000 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 SPORT, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, cha cha cha azure, 1500 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 ACTIVE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, grey, 17159 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 ACTIVE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, epic grey, 17830 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser, black, 55 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Active, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 1000 miles, £7995, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Active, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer remote central locking, red metallic, 26000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Eleganza, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit diesel electric windows mp3 player multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking twin sliding doors, various, 8 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Dynamic, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit diesel electric windows immobiliser mp3 player multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking twin sliding doors, various, 7 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 9000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 2356 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, black, 15000 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, blue, 55 miles, £14500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 2.0, 2008, black, 50 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Multijet Dynamic, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, ivory metallic, 150 miles, £12500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, Active, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immob multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, mamba yellow, 20200 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PANDA, Eleganza, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immob metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, steel grey, 10530 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MX-5, 2.0i Sport Roadster, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior power steering sports seats twin airbags, black, 19276 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8i NEVADA, 2003, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats remote central locking, silver, 41500 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8i, 2003, alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags remote central locking, green, 31843 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MX-5, 232 NAV, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player leather interior multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation sports seats tinted glass traction control twin airbags xenon headlamps curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 42555 miles, £8900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MX-5, ENVOOLVE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 43000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MX-5, 231, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immob metallic paint multi cd player leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags xenon headlamps remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, winning blue, 9921 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air on alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, V6 4WD, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver on grey metallic, 35000 miles, £5500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A CLASS, A140 Classic SE, ly52fjk, air con, electric mirrors, electric windows, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, abs, air bag, head restraints, power steering, cd player, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, immob, remote central locking, metallic grey, 25000 miles, £5995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, 1.4 A140 CLASSIC SE, 2004, silver, 61224 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, A150 Classic SE, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint, bronze, 55 miles, £27700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, A150 Classic SE, 2008, red, 56 miles, £27600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A-CLASS, Classic SE, 2008, black, 55 miles, £27500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

B150, MAV Sport (Reduced), 2008, polar silver metallic, 20901 miles, £12998, Canterbury, 0844 558 7049 (TRADE)

B150, MAV SE (Reduced), 2007, horizon blue metallic, 20874 miles, £11498, Canterbury, 0844 558 7049

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

NOBODY will be surprised to hear that 'throwing a sickie' is waning as employees place a premium on their job even as we emerge from recession. New figures (see inside) also show absences

from work generally are at their lowest since 1987 – good news for Kent's businesses. We also have a Kent success story to tell in the Big Interview.

Shepherd Neame chief Jonathan Neame tells how a small local operator, once dwarfed by brewing giants, has transformed itself in less than 20 years.

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KEY PARTNERS



Hiring intentions show confidence is returning

TIMES may still be difficult for many in business, with the threat of the dreaded double dip recession still haunting the economy, but confidence appears to be returning.

And a new survey suggests business owners are revealing that confidence by predicting they will be hiring rather than firing over the coming months.

Crucially, that confidence boost appears to be happening right here, with employers in the South East reporting the most positive hiring intentions in the UK, according to one of the first recruitment surveys since the General Election. Kent, in particular, has seen a surge in demand in the hospitality sector according to experts.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey, based on responses from more than 2,100 employers, shows that in the South East firms

are planning to increase staffing levels over the next three months, with a seasonally adjusted net employment outlook of +9 per cent reported.

The figure is calculated by subtracting those employers who plan to reduce staffing levels from those who plan to hire staff.

A positive result indicates that more employers plan to increase rather than decrease staffing levels; a negative result reflects the opposite.

The South East's outlook is stronger by four percentage points quarter over quarter, and by 10 percentage points year over year, showing improvement in hiring intentions since mid-recession.

It is significantly stronger than the national average which stands at +1 per cent, marking the third consecutive quarter in positive hiring territory.

Manpower operations manager Paul Laurie said: "Although the public sector locally has been already hit hard by recruitment freezes,

as a business we're seeing significant demand for experienced sales advisers within a range of sectors as businesses look to retain a competitive edge.

"There is also a real need for secretaries right now, as companies look to invest in skilled professionals post-recession, and in Kent we're seeing specific roles emerge within the hospitality sector, due in part to the proximity of Eurostar.

"When considering hiring, employers are increasingly focused on the added value and new skill sets that prospective employees can offer.

"For job seekers, this means the value of training – coupled with industry knowledge and experience – should not be underestimated.

"Those who are flexible in their job search, considering work experience, temporary roles or spending time up-skilling in the short term will reap longer-term advantages."

In London, employers report a fall in hiring confidence since last quarter to -2 per cent.

Port prepares for tide of history

THE Port of Dover has appointed two new members at what it describes as a "critical time in its history".

Dover Harbour Board (DHB) is pursuing a restructuring programme and working to secure plans for long-term development.

To help this process, Jeffrey Hume and Chris Green have taken up non-executive posts on the board after two recent retirements.

Mr Hume has been finance director at companies including European logistics business TDG, AWG, Alfred McAlpine and Howden Group, as well as holding finance positions within the Hawker Siddeley Group.

His non-executive roles include directorships at Heath Lambert Group and Hyder Consulting.

Railways

Mr Hume is also a member of the London Stock Exchange primary markets group which represents market makers, City professionals and listed companies. Mr Green joins after a career in the transport industry, having held senior positions within the railway sector – nationalised and private.

His posts include chief executive of Virgin Trains, managing director of ScotRail during its preparations for privatisation, and managing director of InterCity.

He has also been a board member of the Association of Train Operating Companies, non-executive director of Eurotunnel, an adviser to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee and is a non-executive director of Network Rail.



CHANGING TIMES: The Port of Dover has appointed two new non-executive members

DHB chairman Roger Mountford said: "Jeffrey and Chris bring an excellent combination of skills and experience

which will be invaluable in supporting the board through an exciting if challenging period of change."

Comment

I'VE just returned from a week off, chilling out in the Greek Islands. And if you think we have economic problems, they're nothing to what they have over there.

Nevertheless, while there is rioting in Athens, life wafts along as normal in the tourist spots of 'Hellas'. But it can't go on for ever. German tourists are said to be boycotting Greece. They reckon Europe's economic engine has already spent enough on its 'profligate' Eurozone neighbour via the rescue plan.

Meanwhile, we Brits look at eye-watering prices in resort supermarkets. Some food items are three times what we expect to pay in Tesco and only part of the discrepancy is attributable to the (now faltering) strength of the euro versus sterling.

A British expat explained to me how the locals ramped up extortionate profit margins in the tourist resorts after joining the EU and while countries such as the UK enjoyed a credit boom.

And though their own economy is in ruins, they still believe we will spend freely. The reality is that British tourists and others are already voting with their feet. The island I visited attracted 140,000 holidaymakers last year, 80,000-90,000 are expected this year and travel companies are talking about cutting bookings and flights for 2011. Meanwhile, the locals keep building hotels and other accommodation. It's all Greek to me...

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BUSINESS EDITOR
STEVE LOADER

Bogus 'sickies' costing billions

THE number of sick days taken by under-pressure employees is dipping and is at the lowest point in more than 20 years, a survey has discovered.

And while legitimate absences cost businesses a fortune, about £2.5 billion was lost by people 'throwing a sickie' and fibbing in order to take a day off.

Staff took 180 million sick days last year, averaging 6.4 days each, according to the latest CBI/Pfizer Absence and Workplace Health Survey, published this week.

The rate of absence is the lowest since the survey began in 1987, and down slightly from 6.7 days per employee in 2007, the previous surveyed year.

A small improvement in the public sector absence rate helps explain the fall, but it remains significantly higher than the private sector rate.

The impact of staff absence is considerable, with the 180 million sick days costing employers about £16.8bn in 2009, plus indirect costs like reductions in customer service and delays to teamwork.

Higher rates

Unfortunately, so-called 'sickies' remain a problem. The senior HR staff surveyed at 241 public and private sector organisations estimated about 15 per cent, or 27 million sick days, weren't genuine and cost the country £2.5bn a year.

The survey also shows that larger organisations had higher rates of absence than small ones, and that firms have increased their use of structured rehabilitation plans to help people with longer-term illnesses back to work.

Katja Hall, CBI director of employment policy, said: "The rate of employee absence has come down, but it still costs the economy billions a year. If absence levels across the board could be reduced by 10 per cent, the economy would see annual savings of just under £1.7bn.

"Unfortunately, bogus sick days remain a problem, and are unfair on colleagues and employers alike."

In the public sector, employees took more sick days, with an average of 8.3 days per year, which is 43 per cent higher than the private sector figure of 5.8 days.

The public sector's record improved since the last CBI absence survey covering 2007, when the average was nine days.

The recent CBI report Time for Action suggested that progress towards private sector absence levels could save £5.5bn by 2015-16.



OFF COLOUR: But an estimated 15 per cent of the UK's 27 million sick days per year are not genuine

Ms Hall said: "Although the rate of employee absence has fallen in the public sector, it is still a lot higher than in the private sector, and this issue should be addressed, especially given that the public finances are strained.

"We estimate that £5.5bn could be saved by 2015-16 if the public sector matched the private sector's absence rate.

"Improved rehabilitation and workplace health policies are a key part of achieving this, but so is ensuring that absence, where it occurs, is justified."

Long-term absence is a particular problem. Although it only accounted for five per cent of absences, the longer periods meant that it accounted for 20 per cent of lost days in the private sector and 36 per cent in the public sector. Back pain and mental health issues are key causes of long-term absence, according to the survey.

Dr Berkeley Phillips, UK medical director for Sandwich-based Pfizer, said: "We have long known that mental health, back pain and other musculoskeletal disorders are the leading causes of long-term absence, and this year's CBI report reinforces this.

"While employers view loss of productivity as the main impact of absence, as this report highlights, the economic consequences stretch much further and as such, we as a society, need to do more to advance health and wellness at every stage of life."

An honour and a privilege



THE accountancy profession in Kent has a new leader after Malcolm Kimber was named president of the South Eastern Society of Chartered Accountants (Sesca).

During the last 20 years Mr Kimber has built the small and successful practice, Kimber's Chartered Accountants, in Guildford, Surrey, serving small and medium-size enterprises and people across the region.

Mr Kimber said: "The new coalition Government has announced the first tranche of cuts in public expenditure and the effect will be felt not only in the public sector but across a wide spectrum of local businesses.

"The recovery has started. It is fragile and small at present. I hope it continues on a steady and gradually improving path.

"In the South East we are probably in a better position than most to weather the coming tempest.

"Turning to my appointment, it's clichéd but true to say it's an honour and privilege to represent chartered accountants in the South East.

"During my year as president I want to encourage and welcome our younger members to feel they are part of the fellowship of chartered accountants and participate fully in their profession either through networking, attending events or becoming involved in town groups."

Mr Kimber has two grown-up sons and lives in Guildford with his partner, Sally.

In his free time he enjoys cycling, ice skating, walking and family life with two grandchildren.

TOP MAN: President Malcolm Kimber

"80% of businesses affected by a major incident either never re-open or close within 18 months." *

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IF PUBLIC sector productivity growth in the last decade had kept pace with productivity growth in the private sector, the UK could have received the same quality and quantity of public service for £60 billion less per year, a new report by KPMG claims.

It argues that most public service providers lack the incentive and autonomy to realise the huge productivity improvements that are possible.

The paper, entitled *Payment for Success – How to Shift Power from Whitehall to Public Service Customers*, identifies seven critical issues in the way public services are provided and suggests how to change the system by incentivising providers to offer public services in a more cost-effective and efficient manner.

SHIRLEY Smith, pictured, has been appointed as a corporate services partner by chartered accountants Reeves+Neylan.



She qualified in 1998 and is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. She joined Reeves+Neylan, as a senior audit manager, in October, 2008, and specialises in corporate work including audits, corporate tax services and corporate finance projects. Mrs Smith will be based primarily in the firm's London office but will also be on hand to offer her corporate expertise to clients across the firm and in their offices in Gatwick and Kent.

A WEB marketing workshop takes place in Tunbridge Wells this week.

Strictly limited to 10 attendees, the workshop promises instruction on how to develop your own effective web marketing strategy, identify what web marketing could be achieving for your business, develop dynamic and engaging content, generate as much traffic as you want, convert traffic into leads and sales, sell online and measure the effectiveness of your web marketing efforts.

It takes place at the Brew House Hotel on June 17 and is organised by Effective Marketing. It runs from 9.30am-1pm and costs £99 plus VAT. Call 0845 224 3702 for details.

BUDDING internet entrepreneurs and web masters are being urged to enter for an award.

This Lucent Vision New Internet Business Award is open to anyone who wants to start up a new online business.

Entrants are invited to submit ideas for a new website business or online e-commerce business and the winner will receive their own website worth £1,500 to start up and run an internet business from home.

The award has already appealed to hundreds across the country and now the Remote Worker Awards, in association with BT Business, would like to reach out to anyone with ideas for a new business.

Enter at www.remoteworkerawards.com or call 0844 800 8355.

CLYDESDALE Bank has provided the funding for a care home for the elderly. Work on the development at Hawkinge, near Folkestone, is expected to take 14 months to complete and started earlier this year.

Funding for the multi-million pound development was secured by The Graham Care Group through banking partner Clydesdale.

The building is being constructed over three storeys and is large enough to accommodate separate units for various levels of both physical frailty and dementia. Accommodation will be provided in a range of studio, one and two-bed suites.

Merger partnership is aiming to inspire

TWO leading business development organisations have merged – promising enhanced networking and services for all firms involved in the Investors in People standard in Kent.

Quality South East (QSE) is merging with Capital Quality Ltd (CQL) to form Inspiring Business Performance (IBP), which will be responsible for delivering Investors in People across the South East and London.

IBP will be responsible for managing 7,000 organisations that are recognised as Investors in People – 28 per cent of the 25,000 recognised in the UK.

Key clients include Sainsbury's, McDonald's, Fujitsu, Kent County Council, Thomas Cook Holidays, The Dorchester, Alliance Healthcare, landscape gardeners Gavin Jones, and Thomson Directories.

A spokesman said: "Basically, if you want to work with Investors in People and you're in Kent, you'll now do it through IBP rather than QSE. It means if you're in Kent working with IoP, you can now network with the big London firms you wouldn't have had access to before."

"Likewise, Kent companies will have access to different advisers now with different skills."

The long-running IoP programme aims to provide a framework for continuous improvement that can help organisations of all sizes

and sectors meet goals and adapt to change.

John Telfer, joint managing director of IBP and formerly of CQL, said: "We're delighted to have created an organisation with such a commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction."

"CQL and QSE shared the same values so it made sense to form IBP, knowing it could benefit thousands of organisations."

"There will be increased opportunities for networking which will allow organisations to learn from each other. Whether you are a huge multinational or have only a few employees, you can always learn something from another organisation."

Trish Fraser, joint managing director of IBP and formerly of QSE, said: "The fact we can now offer clients a broader range of services, including additional consultants meaning access to a greater variety of expertise, can only be a positive move."

"Organisations are operating in a difficult climate but highlighting and understanding the challenges you face as an employer is essential. Working with our consultants can make the process easier as they will help you to plan a strategy that will support your business goals."

As well as IoP, IBP will also offer: Lexcel, the Law Society's practice management standard; the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI) accreditation for business advisers; e-Survey; and 360-degree appraisal.



TOGETHER: Joint managing directors of IBP, Trish Fraser and John Telfer, raise a celebratory glass of bubbly

Prudence pays dividends for law firm staff

STAFF at law firm Cripps Harries Hall are to receive thousands of pounds in bonus payments after the firm beat its profit record in its latest financial results.

The firm, which has offices in London and Mount Ephraim Road, Tunbridge Wells, revealed a £5.65 million profit on turnover of £19.2m for the year ending April, 2010.

All staff will now receive a profit-related bonus from a pool that is more than double the budgeted amount. Bonuses will range from six per cent to 25 per cent of salaries.

A spokesman said: "These profits have been achieved through prudent management rather than redundancy."

"The firm continued its strong track record in the property sector, enjoying another year of high-profile mandates, which include a position on the UK real estate panel for one of the world's largest communications companies."

"The firm continues its work for the centre:m in Milton Keynes – one of Britain's biggest shopping centres; the Channel Tunnel rail link project [now known as HS1]; and Europe's largest construction project, Crossrail."

"Cripps is also in its eighth year of working with Lovells on the Mexican-Wave initiative for PRUPIM, the property management arm of the Prudential."

"The private client team also had a successful financial year working on discrete mandates for high net worth individuals."

Jonathan Denny, managing partner of Cripps Harries Hall, said: "This is a particularly positive financial result given the very challenging times."

"We have exercised prudence rather than relying on redundancy to achieve profits. All staff pulled together to ensure we exceeded our profit budget. The partnership is delighted to be able to share the success with the whole team at Cripps Harries Hall."

Coming out on top

ESTATE agent Savills has been ranked UK number one by Property Week's annual survey of advisers.

The nationwide firm, which has offices in Cranbrook, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells, has retained number one status since the survey started seven years ago and this year leads with revenue 25 per cent greater than its nearest rival.

The survey reports Savills UK turnover at £288 million, against runners up CBRE at £215m and Knight Frank at £173.2m. Profit for Savills was recorded at £24.7m, the highest of all the companies that submitted figures. In the international tables, Savills retained fourth place in Europe and moved to fifth position globally, up from six in 2009.

CEO Jeremy Helsby said: "We are proud of this result. Our assets are our people and once again they have put in an outstanding performance."

"We are delighted to retain the number one spot in the UK and improve our global ranking."

Property Week's 2010 survey provides a guide to the annual performance of the top 57 property firms.

It states the strong performance reflects the bounce back in the UK market in the second half of last year. Property Week says this performance also reflects the cost-cutting programmes chief executives and senior partners initiated in 2008 and 2009.

However, despite positive signs, there was gloom, too. The survey found more than £150m has been wiped off last year's turnover of Britain's top 57 property services firms. And last year's combined turnover was £400m lower than in 2008.

A spokesman said: "Last year's fall equates to a 5.6 per cent drop in revenue across the board as firms look to increase their professional and public sector work while traditional transactional fees continue to be elusive."

"An estimated 1,400 jobs have been lost in the past year among the top 57 firms – about six per cent of the total workforce."



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'My Business Week ...'

by Tracie Stevens, marketing manager at Westwood Cross, Thanet

MONDAY – a lovely surprise after time off. I left the office the week before with the worry that we wouldn't get enough entries for Westwood Cross Has Talent, the shopping centre's talent showcase this coming weekend. Instead of the seven hopefuls when I left, I now find we have 89, which sets me another problem – how to whittle the numbers down fairly?

TUESDAY – reviewing upgrades some of the stores have enjoyed in celebration of five years since the centre opened. Wow, that flew by. O2's shop even has a sofa – a comfy way to buy a new mobile phone.

Next's looks fantastic thanks to opening up more floor space. New Look and Costa Coffee feel fresh and new and we've also welcomed Holland and Barrett, which is new to the centre. Even better than the finished articles is the fact that everything has run like clockwork during the work stages.

WEDNESDAY – spoke to shop managers at the centre and they were pretty upbeat about trade.

We've not really seen a decline in customer footfall, but chatting today confirmed something we keep hearing: people are still coming out to shop, but just thinking more about what they buy.

THURSDAY – organising a follow-up to last year's Guide Dogs for the Blind fund-raising, when we exceeded our £5,000 target to buy and train a guide dog. The final total was £7,000. Charity fund-raising is huge at the centre and we have charities clamouring for a



collection slot. The record in a day is £900, collected last November, and it's lovely that people still have money to spare for charity.

This year's main charity is the Pilgrims Hospice, so I will be co-ordinating work on that. Also need to find time to liaise with the media we use for the centre – which includes KOS Media – and agencies booking display advertising in the centre itself.

FRIDAY – final arrangements on Westwood Cross Has Talent.

We've had to cut entries down to 40, but now have a fantastic selection ranging for a lad of seven who gives a diablo display, to singers and dancers. The quality is excellent and the performers come from all over – including Sheppey, Dover, Deal and Canterbury – which just shows how far the centre's appeal is reaching.

Not surprised though, as the prizes are excellent. First prize is a recording studio session and Wii console; second is £200; third gets £100.

Ale fellow, well met on Sheps' road to renewal



Jonathan Neame

It is apt that Britain's oldest brewer should be in Kent, the traditional home of hops. It is right, too, that Faversham-based Shepherd Neame, founded in 1698, is steeped in brewing tradition.

And yet it was this week voted Best UK Family Business for the £25m+ turnover category at an awards event staged by Coutts Bank. The judges praised Shepherd Neame for operating "in a difficult and competitive market" and the family's "ability to combine traditional values into an innovative and forward-looking business". Even this high praise fails to reflect how Shepherd Neame has evolved from small local brewer into thrusting regional operator in just 20 years. Business editor STEVE LOADER spoke to the chief executive Jonathan Neame about the transformation.

ABOUT 20 years ago, Britain's brewing industry went through a cataclysmic upheaval.

A Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) report showed that big national brewers such as Bass, Courage and Whitbread enjoyed a commercial stranglehold via huge tied pub estates.

They were ordered to slim down and the ensuing 'big bang' changed the industry radically, but the pub sector looks fragile today. And yet the UK's oldest brewer,

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK THE BIG INTERVIEW

Shepherd Neame, seems in good health with turnover and pre-tax profits both up last year against 2008, at £60.8 million and £4.9m, against £56.2m and £3.6m respectively.

It also sells nationally known in-house and licence brands, notably the multi-award-winning Spitfire ale, feted for its RAF banter-inspired ad campaign with catchlines like 'No Fokker comes close' and 'Goering, Goering, Gone'.

Shepherd Neame also broke the massively successful Kingfisher Indian lager in the UK, and other stars include Japanese Asahi lager, Whitstable Bay organic ale and the enduring Master Brew ale. And there is little sign of any resting on laurels.

Chief executive Jonathan Neame, 46, might be the fifth generation Neame to run the company, but he is no slave to tradition. He qualified as a barrister and worked in the City before a preordained return to Faversham just as the MMC fallout began.

"Control of pubs has now largely passed to the big companies [so-called pubcos] that are in differing degrees of distress, with high levels of debt and real operational challenges," he said. "There used to be about 60 regional brewers – that's down to 25. A handful of family brewers like us have done well though, building up strong brands and regional presence."

"Our share structure and desire to remain a family business means we will always pursue organic growth. We are not risk averse, but much more interested in a steady, sustainable business platform rather than doing something dramatic for three years and then seeing it go 'pop'."

"Our pubs have far better facilities and the quality of our beer has definitely improved. We are also thinking long term and trying to build a brand – not just Spitfire or Master Brew, but Shepherd Neame – giving consumers a sense of consistency of standards, beer quality and customer service."

"The MMC also enabled us to acquire pubs in diverse and better locations. Pre-1990 we were reliant on north and east Kent. We've since bought in wealthier areas and to the west of us and London. Our numbers have increased, but we have been fairly tough."

The company has acquired some 300

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Award Winning Company



TO THE PINT: Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame outside the Faversham brewery

pubs since 1990 and sold about 200, with the current estate numbering 369. Jonathan said: "Growth in eating out prompted a need for larger floor space in pubs, but it's not a perfect science. Some of our best pubs are tiny traditional ones in London."

But gastropubs have been the priority and he is convinced the tenanted pub model works best here. "To attract good caterers, you need to do it in a spirit of partnership because it means us building new kitchens and facilities and improving outside space, car parks, etc. We put our capital at risk and good tenants have benefited."

He believes his 'apprenticeship' away from the family firm helped him: "I cannot conceive now of having come in here straight from school or university. It enabled me to look at business problems and issues with a certain detachment. The tendency in a family business is to put emotion and sentiment before analysis and objectivity. I would hope I'm fairly analytical and pragmatic about issues rather than relying on 'we've always done it this way', which doesn't have any place in any business."

But he does not believe a City background can prepare anyone for the management challenge of a large number of people.

"It's the great failing of most people in the City that they have little understanding of getting people to move in the direction you want and feel happy and motivated. Thankfully, at Shepherd Neame we have an extremely long-serving and motivated and loyal workforce."

The company employs 1,143 people directly – 323 in the brewery and 820 in managed houses – with an estimated 3,000 jobs created by the tenanted estate.

Looking ahead, he said: "I'm more optimistic than I've been for a long time about the pub market. It's just had five of the worst years in its history: too much regulation, far too much taxation, changes in licensing laws, a 26 per cent increase in [drinks] duty and 299 different pieces of regulation since 1997, which is laughable when you think of the impact on a small business and the speed of change. But there has been a change of mood, a move to a much less regulated environment and recognition that the sector has been unfairly treated and that beer cannot sustain the level of taxation placed upon it."

He also believes that the so-called drinking culture has been misreported, since alcohol consumption is now declining – down about eight per cent since 2004 after an upsurge between 1997 and 2004.

"What drove that was the shift to vodka and high-strength New World wines – not beer. I think there has been recognition that a shift to low-strength alcohol like ale in a controlled environment like a traditional pub is far better than kids drinking vodka in night clubs or at home."

He added that Shepherd Neame had produced a lower alcohol ale, Canterbury Jack, to cater for people who wanted to cut their alcohol units, but called for Government help on taxation.

"We are happy to innovate, but if the Government really wants people to drink less [alcohol] it must give us a reason to offer such products."

He spoke warmly of 'the Kent factor' – the county's closeness to London Olympics action in 2012 and the recent opening of the HS1 rail network.

"There's a lot of evidence that Kent will become a wealthier place, relative to the rest of the South East, than it has been for the last 15-20 years," he said. "Kent has tended to under perform compared with Sussex, Hants, Berkshire, but there are signs that gap will close."

He and his management team are not waiting around for external factors though. This apparently traditional business may actually be one of the most technically advanced in its sector.

It splashed out £3.5m on a hi-tech bottling line last year, capable of filling and packing 35,000 bottles an hour, and has harnessed cutting edge IT to slash energy consumption by 50 per cent, while also delivering eco-friendly benefits that underpin much of the brewery's planning.

And time-honoured beer tasting and sampling has been augmented by lab-based quality control.

Jonathan said: "It must be good because we keep winning awards."

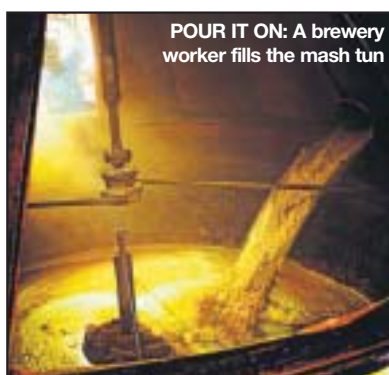
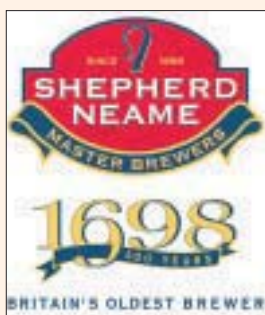
We have introduced so much science and a level of control within our business that we can analyse the process at every micro-step and look to drive up quality. If we haven't already got it, then I think we are developing a competitive advantage.

"It's not driven by cost. We are actually putting cost into the product and we will never be able to produce beer cheaply like national brewers, but we can compete on quality and flavour and differentiation and service."

Away from the business, Jonathan enjoys tennis, walking – he and a team from the brewery recently won a charity British Isles Six Peaks hiking challenge – and clearly loves the Faversham area. He lives at nearby Oare with wife Lucie and daughter Violette.

JONATHAN'S TOP TIPS

- **Beware quick fixes:** "You shouldn't really need them if you are thinking long term and they can create yet more problems."
- **Cut management tiers:** "We avoid a hierarchical set-up here. An open organisation fosters human relationships and information flow and everyone can be clear why they are being asked to do something and why. They also need to feel they can comment."
- **Be flexible:** "The older this business gets the more we seem to experience change. Nothing can be set in stone. You need to be asking: 'Can we be doing things better?'"



POUR IT ON: A brewery worker fills the mash tun

JONATHAN NEAME'S CV

- 1987 – after qualifying as a barrister, becomes strategic consultant with COBA Group, London specialists in mergers, acquisitions and due diligence investigations into major capital projects.
- 1991 – joins Shepherd Neame as company secretary
- 1994 – appointed tenanted trade director and subsequently trade director
- 1999 – becomes MD and then chief executive in 2003

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■ CLYDESDALE Bank is committing £1 billion in lending to Kent and the South East to help bolster business confidence.

The new financial measures will be marketed under the banner Investing for Growth.

Both new and existing business customers will be able to take advantage.

Chris Winning, managing partner at Clydesdale Bank's financial solutions centre in Tunbridge Wells, said: "This offering will include the potential for loan repayment holidays, interest-only repayments and extended loan and credit terms, and we believe it will be warmly received."

"It's about helping companies take advantage of business opportunities by providing investment finance, increasing cash-flow and easing debt commitments."

Customers who take up the package will be able to invest the cash in the form of expansion,

new staff, equipment, machinery and business development.

Will Lindsay, Clydesdale's regional director, said: "By easing the pressure on their cash-flow, Investing for Growth underlines our commitment to helping businesses grow."

"As confidence returns, it is important customers are offered choice, flexibility and dedicated support. This will allow them to take advantage of development opportunities as well as helping plan for a sustainable future."

The announcement follows Clydesdale's interim results which confirm it remains on track to make £10 billion of new lending available to support business and personal customers by October, 2011, with £1bn earmarked for the South East.

Some £2.2bn of new lending was advanced to business and mortgage customers nationally in the last six months by the bank.

A World Cup that cheers – if hospitality can play safe

AT THIS early stage of the World Cup the air is thick with optimism, expectation and high excitement.

And that's just for those working in the hospitality trade as they look forward to a profitable summer with big crowds flocking to join in watching – and hopefully celebrating – the football extravaganza.

But businesses in the sector such as hotels, pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafés are being warned to take special care this month as they look to cash in with big screens and more St George's crosses than you can shake a flagpole at.

Leading environmental health consultancy, Perry Scott Nash, is urging bosses not to overlook the health and safety issues around entertaining large crowds of fans.

"The hospitality industry has suffered just as much as any other sector during the recession," said Janet Cox, client services director at Perry Scott Nash.

"So it's understandable the vast majority of businesses are looking to the World Cup as an opportunity to recover some of the losses they've been carrying."

"However, if they overlook their legal responsibilities to customers and staff, the repercussions could be severe – a hefty fine, loss of licence or prosecution."

"No-one wants to stop the euphoria surrounding the World Cup and businesses do need to seize the opportunities it presents," Ms Cox said.

"By following our guidance, hopefully the World Cup will be remembered for the best



WORLD CUP: Fans are a boon to the hospitality sector – but beware the pitfalls

of reasons, not the worst." The Fifa World Cup finals kicked off in South Africa on Friday, with England's first game – against the USA – on Saturday. They then play Algeria next Friday.

The timing of the two opening games – prime-time on such popular nights, will have been warmly welcomed by the hospitality trade, eager to capitalise on the tournament.

In 2002, it missed out on many opportunities due to the time difference. With the tournament staged in South Korea and Japan, matches kicked off in the morning or lunchtime, with no evening matches.

• *The firm, which operates nationwide, has created a World Cup risk assessment guide, identifying four main areas licensed premises need to be aware of: control of alcohol sales; the potential for violence and disorder; emergency evacuations; and the security of staff and the public. Visit www.perryscottnash.co.uk to request a copy.*

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Food for thought in the Garden of England

HADLOW College's entry for the 2010 RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (July 6-11) is aptly named Food4Thought.

The designers were inspired by these sobering facts:

- The world population is predicted to exceed nine billion by 2050 – it is now six billion.
- Scientists predict serious food and water shortages on a global scale.
- Climate change has begun and polar ice is melting, causing sea levels to rise and threatening low-lying land, including in the UK.
- Importing food clocks up 'food miles' and emissions and pollution that increase global warming. We import nearly 90 per cent of the fruit consumed in this country.

But Food4Thought also highlights how the Garden of England could play a part in a re-ordering things in Kent by highlighting fruit that used to be grown here; what is currently grown here; and what, in the light of climate change, might be grown in future – this could

By **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

include peaches, lemons and nectarines.

Hadlow College finance director Mark Lumsdon-Taylor said: "Hampton Court is the world's largest, and arguably most important, flower show.

"What better place to exhibit a garden that provides food for thought about the most important challenges the world has ever faced?"

Publicity officer Pat Crawford said: "Kent, as the Garden of England, must play an increasingly important part in providing future food security.

"How fortunate we are to have some of the world's best fruit growers in our county."

Food4Thought was designed by Mandy Buckland and the project is being managed by Brian Hawtin – both hold a BA (Hons) degree in garden design.

Hadlow students studying garden design have also been involved.



GARDEN TEAM: From left – garden designer Mandy Buckland, Adele Ford, Hadlow College lecturer Brian Hawtin, James Craig, Neil Brookson, Grant Beerling; (front) Susan Palmer, Susan Willmott, Claudia Vergari and Alick Nee
INSET RIGHT: Hadlow's Food4Thought entry



County's helping handbook

PRODUCED in Kent – the county's food and drink champion – says it has given the sector a helping hand with the launch of The Producers Handbook.

Supplied free to members and available at £49.99 to non-members, it is a response to what the group regards as one of the most unprecedented periods of austerity faced by food and drink producers in the Garden of England.

It is designed to help not only set up a new business, but help it become one of the many award-winning success stories recognised by Produced in Kent's annual Taste of Kent Awards.

Julie Monkman, manager at Produced in Kent (PinK), said: "We're looking to give new businesses a helping hand into the world of food and drink production, marketing and sales, and also provide a day-to-day business partner via The Producers Handbook that can give all small to medium-size enterprises guidance and support on every aspect of their business."

The guide includes sections on Planning and Growth, Marketing and Trade Development, People and Operations and Finance and Risk.

The 'PinK Pointers' at the end of each colour-coded section provide advice lines, and local

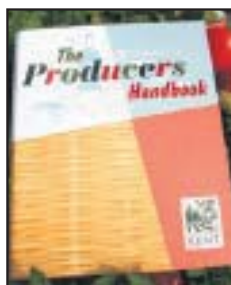
business and government agency details to smooth businesses towards a successful launch, growth and expansion.

After World War Two, Britain faced another period of austerity and the guide has been designed in the style of 1950s cookbooks, but a ring-binder file allows businesses to update pages and insert planning notes for customisation to their own operations.

Despite the difficult economic climate, Produced in Kent's membership rose 30 per cent during the past year – more than 20 new members have joined since January and total membership is now 175, yet produced in Kent was created just five years ago. Members include producers, independent food retailers, farm shops, restaurants, pubs and farmers' markets. The Taste of Kent Awards have also caught the imagination of the public.

The 2009 event smashed all previous records by attracting 10,000 votes – up 89 per cent on the previous year – and highlighting increasing public interest in local food and retailing, not only to reduce wasteful and polluting 'food miles' but sustain rural communities and provide quality, locally produced food and drink.

Membership of Produced in Kent, a non-profit-making body, costs from £75 a year.



Paice to release brakes on farming

RED tape burdens on the farming industry will be reviewed by a new task force on farming regulation announced by Agriculture Minister Jim Paice.

The new body will be headed by experienced and highly-respected former National Farmers' Union director general Richard Macdonald CBE.

He has had three decades at the NFU, which included the BSE and foot-and-mouth disease crises and 13 years in the top job before standing down last November.

"There's too much red tape tying up our farmers and preventing them from getting on with the business of producing our food and managing our countryside," said Mr Paice.

"That's why we committed in the coalition agreement to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers by moving to a risk-based system of regulation.

"The burden on farming and food manufacturing is not just the number of regulations but the emphasis on process rather than out-

comes. I'm going to ask this industry-led task force to look at the way we make and implement regulations across the board, both at what's already in place, and how we should do things in future.

"I'm pleased that Richard Macdonald has agreed to head this task force, as he brings with him a unique knowledge of the farming and food industry, outstanding leadership skills and a track record of commitment to partnership working between Government and industry."

Mr Macdonald said: "I am very much looking forward to leading a task which I have long thought needs doing.

"It won't be easy to achieve results overnight and as well as the task force itself I plan to consult everybody in the farming and food sector interested in working with us. Together I hope that we can make a real difference."

The initial recommendations to the Government are expected by early 2011.

CUSTOMERS in 15 Kent Asda supermarkets were able to buy locally-grown new potatoes again this week. The chain is using 'Grown in Kent' tray labelling to highlight the three local varieties – Rivera, Maris Peer and Maris Bard – from JP Ash of Updown Farm, Margate, where a spokesman said: "This year's crop is as tasty as ever and looking especially good; small and sweet from the dry spring we've had, so they look great on plate."

Des Wilson, Asda's potato buyer, said: "We know locally-grown food is top of our customers' shopping list. These wonderful potatoes grown by JP Ash are a perfect example of our commitment to local farmers in Kent, and we hope our customers enjoy them this summer."

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on hospitality, travel and tourism

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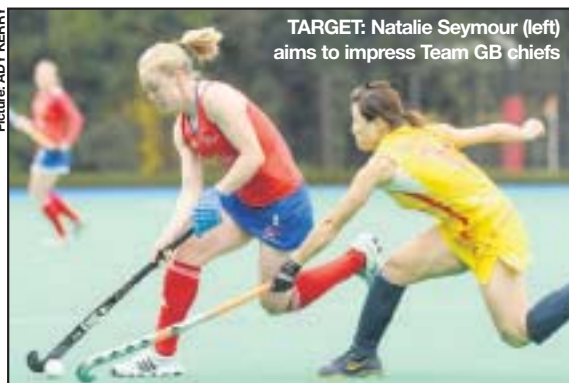
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Picture: ADY KERRY



TARGET: Natalie Seymour (left) aims to impress Team GB chiefs

Seymour out to secure Champions Trophy spot

A PLACE in the Great Britain side for next week's critical final competitive fixtures before the Champions Trophy begins is the target for Canterbury ladies star Natalie Seymour.

Britain face Australia in Test matches on Wednesday and Friday, plus two training games. They will serve as the last chances for the England players to impress before the Champions Trophy begins in Nottingham next month.

Speaking before the squad was announced for the games against the Hockeyroos, the 21-year-old was optimistic of being involved.

She said: "The games will be good preparation leading into the Champions Trophy, so it's an important time to be selected and involved. Personally, I'm happy with the way things are going but it's difficult to be

certain leading into selection."

If picked, good displays against Australia would almost certainly cement Seymour's place in the England squad for the Champions Trophy, hockey's biggest annual international tournament. The world's top four women's sides will be competing, giving the hosts – ranked seven in the world – a stern examination.

Seymour made her international tournament debut in last year's event, when a young England side finished bottom of the pool.

Since then the defender has gone on to become a regular for both England and Great Britain and should be a regular in Nottingham.

The Trophy comes at the beginning of a busy summer for the team, with the World Cup and Commonwealth Games to follow.

Mixed bag for Tour ladies

TWO Kent golfers had contrasting fortunes on the Ladies European Tour last weekend as Claire Aitken enjoyed her best finish, while Dani Masters struggled on her return.

Gravesend's Aitken finished in a share of 47th place at the ABN AMRO Ladies Open in the Netherlands. The 24-year-old shot 75, 73 and 73 to finish the three-round event on five-over-par to finish inside the top 50 for the first time this season.

While results so far remain modest, Aitken has made three

cuts in her five Tour events so far this season, the same number she made in the whole of her debut campaign in 2009.

Masters fared less well at Golfclub Broekpolder, carding rounds of 81 and 82 to finish 124th on 19 over-par.

It was the Maidstone golfer's first Tour event for almost three months and she will be hoping for a big improvement if she gains entry to next week's Swiss Open, where she is second reserve. Aitken is already confirmed in the field.

Can Staff get Team USA back on track?

OLYMPIC gold medallist Jamie Staff departs for California next week as he prepares to take on the huge task of turning around the flagging fortunes of the United States' track cycling programme.

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

The 37-year-old, who won gold for Britain in the team pursuit at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, called time on his glittering career in March. Since then the Ashford-born rider has been searching for a challenge to sink his teeth into, something his new role will certainly provide.

While cycling is popular in the US, the focus is on road racing and BMX. The track cycling programme has been relatively ignored, with America's last Olympic medal coming in 2000.

Ambitious

A change at the top of US Cycling has prompted a change in emphasis, leading to Staff's recruitment to manage the programme in Carson, California. While insisting he is undaunted by the job, he admits the scale is huge.

"It's quite an ambitious role and we'll still be working with a relatively small budget compared to some nations," he said.

"In team GB we had an expert coach for every department, but I'm going to be doing the strength and conditioning, track coaching and running the junior and grassroots programmes.

"The budget is peanuts compared to British Cycling, but other nations have had success with

low resources. It will be hard, but exciting at the same time."

Staff spent several years in the States as a BMX rider early in his career, during which time he met his wife. His children were also born in America and the intention was always to return after his cycling career ended.

A member of the powerful British track team, which claimed a remarkable 12 medals in Beijing, US Cycling will be hoping Staff can translate some of the success to their squad. But starting from such a low level, expectations for the time being remain modest with no medal targets for London 2012.

The Stateside move does not affect plans for Staff's academy based at the planned A2 cycle park near Gravesend, which he says is still a priority.

He said: "Even though I'm going to be in the US I'm very keen to do things in Kent. I'll always consider it to be my home, I'm passionate about getting kids on bikes and will be continuing my relationship with the project."



CHALLENGE: Jamie Staff will take over US track cycling team which has not won an Olympic medal since 2000. Picture: BRITISH CYCLING

Duo on target for team title

MOTORBASE Performance remain on course for the British Touring Car Championship's (BTCC) team title, while drivers Steven Kane and Mat Jackson find themselves first and second in the independent drivers championship.

The pair are also third and fifth in the overall BTCC drivers championship after three rounds at Oulton Park last weekend.

Kane was on cracking form, stunning the capacity crowd to finish second in the third race to continue his record of finishing inside the top three at every one of the four circuits visited on the calendar.

He said: "Five podiums this season on the fourth BTCC weekend is better than I could have expected."



TOP-THREE: Steven Kane secured yet another podium finish, his fifth of the season, at the Oulton Park race

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Kent basketball star one step away from the NBA

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

A FORMER Kent basketball player is on the verge of a dream move to the glamorous world of North America's NBA after impressing in trials ahead of this month's draft.

Ryan Richards is among 108 prospects hoping to get drafted into the world's top basketball league for next season.

With 60 spots up for grabs, competition is intense, but the 19-year-old is beginning to make a name for himself.

It is a world away from the relatively humble beginnings when the youngster from Sittingbourne joined the Crusaders, aged 12. Jesse Sazant, chairman of the newly renamed Medway Park Crusaders, spent several years coaching the young talent, who stood out from his peers straight away.

He said: "He was very big for his age, which is what you look for in basketball, but he did the difficult things well from the beginning. You knew then with work on his fundamentals he had the potential to be very good."

"It would be a huge honour for the club if he does make it because we played a big part in his development. He's got a chance in the draft, all it takes is one team to really see some potential in you and take a flier."

Richards left the Crusaders in

TALL ORDER: Ryan Richards (right) could achieve his life-long dream of playing in the NBA (LA Lakers, in yellow, are pictured taking on the Boston Celtics)



2006, after accepting a scholarship to join Gran Canaria's Academy, helping their under-18 side to the league title and represented England at the under-16 European Championship.

Since then he has also gained experience playing on loan in Belgium and Switzerland, but has remained in close contact with the Crusaders and is a regular visitor when he returns to the UK.

He is a relative unknown, but spent time training in Chicago and Detroit ahead of the NBA Draft Combine last month. The

annual two-day event sees the prospects put through their paces for the watching scouts.

While at the Combine in Chicago he made a big impact, with ESPN pundits singling him out for special praise.

Pundit Len Elmore said: "The bottom line is those are the kind of guys coaches want to work with – somebody that's got a bit of purity in his game on the fundamentals and then you can build talent off that foundation."

There is the possibility Richards could choose to opt out

of being drafted, by withdrawing his name next week.

Speaking to reporters at the Combine last month, the forward raised the possibility of trying again next year if the opportunities did not fit in with his ambitions.

He said: "If they're going to pick me and then send me back to Europe I'd rather withdraw my name and come back next year."

"It's my goal in life, I've always wanted to play in the NBA. I've been waiting for a while even though I'm pretty young, and I think I'm ready to make the jump."



CUED UP: Barry Hawkins voted for Hearn

Hawkins sure Hearn will put snooker back in the frame

BARRY Hawkins believes the decision by his fellow professionals to hand control of snooker to promoter Barry Hearn will breathe new life into the sport.

The world's top 64 players met in Sheffield last week, with Hearn beating John Davison by 35 votes to 29. It will see the businessman, who has had success in promoting darts in recent years, take a 51 per cent share in the commercial side of the sport.

Hawkins, ranked 21 in the world, voted for Hearn and is confident the move will turn around the sport's flagging fortunes.

The Dartford potter said: "I think he'll be good for the game and he's got lots of good contacts with broadcasters."

"The game, in a lot of people's eyes, was dying on its feet. To have only six ranking tournaments last year tells you that."

The main issue for the players was increasing the number of tournaments throughout the season.

Under the revamped calendar there are huge expansion in numbers, with a dozen new Tour Championship events for the top 128 players which carry the all-important ranking points, the first of which start later this month.

Hawkins has already begun practising, a far cry from his routine under the old system.

He said: "To be honest if you didn't qualify for the World Championship you could easily have four months without picking up your cue."

"Now it's more like three or four weeks and you're back into it again. It's good, we're professionals at the end of the day and it's no good having months without a game."

Wild card gives Cavaday Wimbledon doubles spot

NAOMI Cavaday has received a wild card to play in the women's doubles at Wimbledon later this month.

The 21-year-old from Sidcup will be entered into the first round at the All England Club with partner Anna Smith. The pair are ranked 415 in the world, but reached the quarter-finals on the grass at the AEGON Trophy in Nottingham last week.

Cavaday reached a career high 174 in the world rankings last month after winning a clay court tournament in Italy. She did not receive a wild card for the Wimbledon singles

draw, meaning she must come through qualifying at Roehampton next week to reach the first round proper.

Cavaday has twice played in the main draw at SW19, courtesy of wild cards impressing in spirited defeats to Martina Hingis and Venus Williams in 2007, and 2008 respectively.

Last year she narrowly missed out on qualifying in her own right, losing in the final round to Russia's Vesna Manasieva.

The main tournament begins on Monday, June 21.



BIG TIME: Naomi Cavaday will partner Anna Smith at Wimbledon



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Robbo in Gills U-turn

Club gives coach ultimatum over future at Priestfield

By DAVID PRITCHARD

MARK Robson has been given until early next week to determine his future at Gillingham after stepping down from the club due to "personal reasons".

On Wednesday the Gills announced the 41-year-old was unable to take up his role as assistant manager "at this moment in time".

The decision came just a fortnight after the former Charlton academy coach had been unveiled as the club's new assistant manager.

KOS Media understands at the time of the press conference Robson was considering another job offer. He has always made it clear he had ambitions to become a manager sooner rather than later, leading to speculation he could be poised for a move away from Priestfield.

Disruption

Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler spoke with Robson on Tuesday night and while he is not yet looking for a new deputy, a decision is needed rapidly to avoid disruption to the plans for next season.

He said: "Mark spoke to me and the chairman and decided he can't take the position up. The door has been left open to him for now, but obviously it can't be left open for too long. We've said give it some thought and wait until the early part of next week, that's all I know."

"There are no problems between Mark and myself. We had a good chat and I'm not going to go into his personal life, he's a friend of mine."

If Robson was to leave it would be a significant blow to the Gills. The former West Ham midfielder was an experienced coach, spend-



Picture: ADY KERRY

BETTER OFFER? Mark Robson (right, with new Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler) has turned down the role of assistant manager. Picture: ADY KERRY

ing almost a decade in the coaching set-up at Charlton before joining Gillingham as Mark Stimson's first-team coach in the summer of 2008. It's understood Robson won't be teaming up with Stimson at Barnet.

Stimson recommended Robson for the top job at Priestfield when he left last month, but when Robson was unveiled as Hessenthaler's assistant at a press conference, he denied it would be a problem working as a number two.

He said: "The chairman had mentioned Andy, we met up and had a good chat and ultimately Andy was the manager and me as number two. I'm fine with that, I've got no problem with it and it's a new challenge. I can't wait to get going."

Despite this Robson revealed he had yet to sign a contract, but believed a three-year offer was on the table. It was not the first time his contract had become an issue, telling Kent on

Sunday in December he was still waiting to sign a deal which was expected to be tied up six months earlier. At the time he admitted the delay had forced him to look for jobs elsewhere.

On the playing staff, Mark Bentley was expected to make a decision on his contract offer by this weekend, but Garry Richards' negotiations had been delayed by the defender's holiday and are likely to carry on into next week.

Darts' ground part of World Cup 2018 bid

FOOTBALL fans in Kent will have an extra reason to hope England win the right to host the 2018 World Cup, after Dartford's Princes Park was included in the bid.

The 4,100-capacity stadium, which opened in 2006, is in line to host one-off, open training sessions prior to games. Along with a private training site and a high quality hotel, it will form one of 82 'Team Base Camp Clusters' spread across the country.

For a club playing in the Ryman Premier last season it is a huge honour to be included in the document, submitted to Fifa President Sepp Blatter in Zurich last month by 2018 bid vice-president David Beckham. It is in contrast with the venue's bid to host training camps ahead of the London Olympics in 2012, with no interest received so far.

Dave Skinner, Darts chairman, is delighted at the prospect of some of the world's best players training at Princes Park, which has won awards for its eco-friendly design.

He said: "The council said they were putting the package together and whether we had any problems with the idea, and of course we said no. I know it's different, but the enthusiasm around the training venues in South Africa is great and if we could generate even a quarter of that it would be incredible."

The sport's governing body will inspect all the bids this summer before voting in December.

Get involved in playing, administrating or officiating in football this summer, contact fabfooty@kentfa.com

Facilities must be taken to next level



OF ALL the factors associated with participation in sport, few can have a bigger impact – positive or negative – than the standard of facilities.

Provide high-quality pitches, goals and changing rooms and you will encourage increasing numbers of people who respect the environment, or so the theory goes.

It may sound utopian, but one example where it has become reality is Princes Park in Dartford. Opened in 2006 as a permanent home for the town's club, the stadium is surrounded by artificial pitches for community use.

The results have been spectacular. On the pitch, big crowds have cheered Dartford to two promotions in three seasons. It has also had other benefits, with 2008 figures showing antisocial behaviour in the wards covering the facility had dropped by 17 per cent, compared to 10 per cent with the rest of the town.

Cllr Jeremy Kite, leader of Dartford council, has been delighted with the impact Princes Park has made.



EXCEPTION: Prince's Park Stadium is surrounded by artificial pitches for community use

"To be honest the benefits are immeasurable," he said. "I don't think you can put a value on the sort of morale it's created."

"I just wish there were more of them, it's a great shame a Princes Park can't be built in every town."

The obvious reason is cost, with the development's price tag in the region of £6.5 million. Anyone familiar with the saga of Maidstone United's long exile from the county town will know Princes Park is far from the norm.

Despite this, as much as £18m has been invested in the 39 projects in Kent over the

past decade, with a lot of the emphasis on artificial 3G pitches which can accommodate far higher usage than grass.

Paul Dolan of the Kent County Football Association believes the situation is improving, but admitted there was still a lot of work to be done.

He said: "It's having an impact but I don't doubt there's a long way to go. There are some appalling facilities around which are unacceptable."

"Pitches in Kent and the whole country really need modernising and updating if we are to raise the levels."

'The county cricket schedule is crazy'



FATIGUED: Rob Key says the hectic fixture list gives his players little time to recuperate
Pictures: ADY KERRY



THIS is a season which so far has tested us all enormously, both physically and mentally.

As captain, I am responsible for all Kent's players and they have been under huge strain with the crazy scheduling we've had to endure and the injuries and unavailability which has also hurt us a lot.

The last fortnight has been especially frenetic – even in a fixture list like this year's – and my message to the team has been to simply get on with it and learn to live with all the things that could start to get you down.

I think I am fortunate in that the Kent squad has been a relatively small but tight-knit unit for some years now, and so we have been used to dealing with the issues of injury and workload that seem so much a part of every English domestic cricket summer.

This past week, including today, we have played three Friends Provident t20 matches in five days – at three different venues – having just finished last Monday a four-day match against Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells, which came immediately after two floodlit Twenty20 matches in Essex and Hampshire on the two evenings before. Crazy!

While we were driving back from the Rose Bowl late at night, and trying to get some rest before turning up at the Nevill Ground on the Friday morning for some practice and loosening-up ahead of the first day start at noon – they did give us an extra hour's grace at least – the Notts boys were able to have a nice lie-in having travelled down to Tunbridge Wells the day before.

Kent skipper slams the fixture planners as Khan suffers injury

But having every county operating on a level playing field does not seem to be the main consideration of the fixture-planners and, as I say, as players we just have to get on with it and try to compete as best we can.

Sadly, the workload of the first two months of this crowded season, plus playing in those two Twenty20s at Essex and Hampshire immediately before the Notts game meant that Amjad Khan broke down with a hamstring injury right at the end of the long, hot opening day in the field during the Tunbridge Wells championship match.

Amjad will be out of action for at least a fortnight, and so that will further stretch our bowling resources during this first half of the Twenty20 campaign.

I suppose the fact we now have just one County Championship fixture before late July – the game at Hampshire on July 5 – means Amjad can concentrate on getting himself over this hamstring strain in the short-term.

But it is his ability to bowl at the death in limited-overs cricket that we will miss. We have been fortunate in recent years to have had bowlers of the calibre of Azhar Mahmood, Yasir Arafat and Ryan McLaren to bowl the death overs that can make all the difference to whether these games are won or lost.

Now, with Amjad injured, we only have Azhar left as a specialist.

Darren Stevens has already done a great job either with the new ball or

at the end, and Matt Coles is another candidate to bowl at the top or bottom of a Twenty20 innings.

We have kept James Tredwell, who rather unfortunately missed out on being picked for the England one-day squad and he has teamed up well with Malinga Bandara, who I believe is going to be very important for us.

Malinga has settled in well, and quickly, and I was pleased that he and Tredwell enjoyed lengthy bowls in tandem against Nottinghamshire. That was particularly good for Banda, as he needed to get some early overs under his belt in English conditions.

He strikes me as being a similar sort of cricketer to Paul Strang, the Zimbabwe leg-spinning all-rounder who was a big success in his one season at Kent as overseas player in the late 1990s.

Like Strang, Banda can also bat well and his ability to turn the ball both ways – his googly is a good one – will come in very handy during the rest of this season.

For the moment, though, this season continues to be a massive challenge for us as a team, and myself as captain.

I'm just hoping we do not pick up any more injuries and that the likes of Amjad and James Hockley are fit again after a couple of weeks.

Missing Tredwell in the early weeks of the season, because of his World Twenty20 selection, and having Robbie Joseph out injured, was balanced by Ntini's short-term signing.

But it would be nice, at some stage, to have a full-strength bowling attack available.



• Rob Key, the Kent captain and former England batsman, is one of KOS Media's regular sports columnists.

MATCH PRACTICE: Malinga Bandara is settling in well, says skipper Rob Key

Book lifts lid on 40 years of bitter infighting at Kent

AIMED squarely at the Kent aficionado, new book *Trophies and Tribulations* is an account of the county's second golden era and the wilderness years that followed, co-authored by Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell.

It's a slightly unusual format, with Ellis taking the years from 1967 to 1993 and Pennell covering the rest, for an overview of Kent's past four decades, with an interesting contrast in styles between Ellis's more straight-batted journalism and Pennell's first-person account.

The book's most interesting subjects are the recurring themes of official incompetence and bitter internal wrangling.

Ellis quotes the late Bob Woolmer's joke about his specialist subject on Mastermind being: "Sackings of successful Kent captains," and given their toughest opponents were often the



WORTH A READ: *Trophies and Tribulations*

faceless, blundering committee men operating behind the scenes at St Lawrence, it seems incredible Kent won anything at all.

The lingering resentment of a string of clumsily fired captains and players contrasts starkly with the anodyne press statements made at the time of their dismissals. It is also fascinating to see the likes of former captain Matthew Fleming spill the beans about the lack of professionalism shown by some of his players a decade ago.

T&T has weaknesses – there are a number of occasions when potentially interesting avenues are left unexplored or not explained in enough detail. We learn that Simon Hinks was warned about his conduct on and off the field, but we are never told what he actually did.

These aside, it is an enjoyable and interesting addition to Kent's archives.

Tee off for children's hospice

GOLFERS across the county have the chance to play alongside some of the region's best professionals this autumn with the launch of the Demelza Cup.

Clubs in Kent are being invited to run local qualifying events alongside one of their competitions during the summer.

The fee is £5 per person, with the money going to Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

The winners from each club will qualify for the final, which will be a Pro-Am held in association with the PGA Southern Region at the renowned Prince's Golf Club, Sandwich, in October.

Several of the top professionals from the Southern Region are expected to take part, along with players from the European Tour and Challenge Tours.

Ashford's Bann Barham, who has several

years' experience on the European Tour, has raised money for the charity for several years and helped

come up with the idea for the Demelza Cup, which this year is supported by KOS Media.

He said: "The most important thing is we're trying to increase awareness about Demelza and raise as much as we can."

"Potentially there's a lot of members who could be interested in playing from each club, which would be a lot of money."

"For the sake of £5 it's quite a nice carrot, the Pro-Am should be one of the biggest in the South East this year."

"Hopefully it becomes an ongoing event and the Demelza Cup will become known as an annual competition."

See your local club for details of the qualifying tournaments.



SUPPORTER: Golf pro Bann Barham
Picture: ADY KERRY

THIS WAY, LADIES

EXCLUSIVE

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

FOLLOWING the return of The Open Championship to Kent next year, the county's golf scene could be set for another boost after it emerged the London Golf Club is preparing a bid to host the Solheim Cup.

The high-profile biennial tournament is women's golf's equivalent to the Ryder Cup,

London Club will bid to become first venue in England to host prestigious Solheim Cup

a three-day competition which pits the best golfers from the United States against Europe's finest.

It attracts worldwide television figures of approximately 400 million, with 120,000 spectators expected across the whole week. Killeen Castle in Ireland is hosting the 2011 edition and the London Club, near Ash, are lining up a bid for the next time it returns to Europe, in 2015.

England has never hosted the tournament and if successful it would be a huge fillip for the club's profile and the county in general, just four years after Sandwich's Royal St George's hosts The Open.

The impact locally would also be significant, with the London Club's pre-bid document estimating the event generates more than £8 million for the host town.

Kate Brewer, marketing manager at the London Club, believes they will have a very competitive proposal, which would fit in with the Government's plans for a 'golden decade' of sport alongside the London Olympics and plans for the 2018 football World Cup.

She said: "The Solheim Cup is part of our long-term plans and we feel we are perfectly placed in terms of our location and as part of the decade of sport. We feel that to have a golf event in London or north Kent as part of that would be just perfect. We've hosted many tournaments in the past to show we're up there and the Solheim Cup would be another big achievement."

The London Club, near Brands Hatch, is a relative newcomer on the scene.

The two Jack Nicklaus-designed courses were only opened in 1994, but it has rapidly established itself as one of the region's top venues.

It has held four events on the European Seniors Tour before hosting the two events on the main European Tour.

Helped by its proximity to London and excellent road links, the European Opens in 2008, and 2009, attracted large galleries, with almost 90,000 attending the latter.

There are plans to build a 130-bed hotel with spa and conference facilities which are being considered by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The club's pre-bid dossier

has been submitted as part of the planning application, but while approval would help their bid, a rejection would not end their hopes of attracting the Solheim Cup.

Dani Masters played for Great Britain and Ireland in the Curtis Cup – the amateur version of the Solheim Cup – in 2004.

The Ladies European Tour (LET) professional from Maidstone believes the London Club would provide an ideal setting.

The Maidstone golfer said: "It's a great venue, relatively close to all the airports and there would be a lot of supporters from Europe coming over to support it."

"For county golf it would be absolutely fantastic if they won the bid, to have the Solheim Cup in Kent is something I never thought I would ever see."

The LET, organisers of the 2015 event, officially opened the bidding process this week. Clubs must submit a bid by October 29 to be considered, with the host venue to be announced in 2011 after a thorough inspection of the candidates.



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COURSE GUIDE: The impact of hosting the Solheim Cup at the London Club (pictured) could be worth £8m to host town
Picture: ADY KERRY

Bumper crowds make The Nevill a lucrative proposition for Kent



DECISION TIME: Jamie Clifford

A **HUGELY** successful Tunbridge Wells Cricket Week has forced Kent bosses to consider playing more games at The Nevill ground next summer, **writes Glenn Pearson.**

The picturesque ground, lined with its now famous rhododendrons, staged a four-day county championship game which finished on Monday, before an official figure of 5,000 packed in on Wednesday night to watch the Kent Spitfires in the Friends Provident t20.

The Tunbridge Wells festival has traditionally been a well supported cricket week, but the attendance at this year's two fixtures has prompted the club to rethink how many games it allocates to The Nevill.

EXCLUSIVE

Chief executive Jamie Clifford couldn't hide his delight at the attendance and told this newspaper he would be interested in the club playing more cricket in Tunbridge Wells.

"It shows that if you take cricket on the road you get big crowds," he said.

"There is clearly a market in Tunbridge Wells that are desperate to see county cricket. I'm delighted by the attendance and that people have really taken to what's been a really successful festival week."

"You would have to consider [playing more games in Tunbridge Wells] because the

numbers are compelling. But actually more than that, there is a support base that we should be bringing cricket to so it's on their doorstep. It shouldn't be a case of 'we are east Kent Cricket Club' we genuinely feel we are a county cricket club so therefore we should be taking cricket to the people."

With the financial state at Kent no secret, with the club having announced losses of £802,452 for the last financial year, income from the festival will be a major shot in the arm.

Attendance for the championship game which would usually attract a meagre 1,000-a-day at Canterbury was put into perspective when more than 4,000 turned up on the first day for the drawn game against Nottinghamshire.

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